

RESTORING RELATIONS

MATTHEW LEE

Associated Press

ANTIGUA, Guatemala (AP)

— The United States and Venezuela have agreed to begin a high-level dialogue with the aim of restoring ambassador-level relations and ending more than a decade of steadily



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry gives a thumbs up after visiting San Francisco Church in Antigua Guatemala, Tuesday, June 4, 2013.
(AP Photo/Moises Castillo)

deteriorating ties, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said Wednesday.

On his first trip to Latin America since taking office and after meeting Venezuela's foreign minister in the first cabinet-level discussion between the two nations in at least several years, Kerry said he was hopeful that a rapprochement could be achieved. The meeting, which came at Venezuela's request, took place just hours after Venezuela released from prison an American filmmaker who had been jailed on espionage charges, removing an immediate irritant in the relationship.

Kerry thanked Foreign Minister Elias Jose Java for the release of Timothy Tracy, calling it a "very positive development."

Continued on Page 2



The site of a building collapse in Philadelphia, June 5, 2013. A four-story building that was being demolished collapsed in central Philadelphia on Wednesday, sending bricks cascading onto a Salvation Army thrift store and trapping people under the rubble, the authorities said.

(Mark Makela/The New York Times)

1 Dead, 13 Injured In Philly Building Collapse

PHILADELPHIA - A four-story building that was being demolished partly collapsed in central Philadelphia on Wednesday, sending bricks cascading onto a Salvation Army thrift store and trapping people under the wreckage, the authorities said.

At least 13 people were taken to hospitals with injuries, said Commissioner Lloyd Ayers of the Philadelphia Fire Department. At least one person, a 35-year-old woman, was discovered dead in the collapse Wednesday afternoon as more than 125 firefighters and other emergency workers searched the rubble.

Mayor Michael A. Nutter

said at a news conference from the site of the collapse that the rescue effort was "delicate, dangerous work." Behind him, firefighters could be seen lifting bricks by hand off a huge pile of debris as two backhoes stood by idly.

Ayers said emergency crews had been in communication with the two people stuck under the debris, but it was not clear how long it might take to rescue them.

The building, at the corner of 22nd and Market streets in Center City, was being demolished Wednesday when one of its walls suddenly gave way at about 10:40 a.m., the authorities said. Bricks, cinder blocks,

and sections of wood and broken concrete slammed down onto the adjacent two-story building, where the popular thrift store was situated.

"There was a big boom, dust everywhere, the ground started shaking," said Jordan McLaughlin, 18, who said he was walking on the opposite side of the street when the wall collapsed.

Within seconds, he said, all that remained of it was "a big pile of bricks."

Ayers said firefighters had arrived within two minutes of receiving the 911 call.

But McLaughlin said that before emergency crews arrived, he and other passers-by had run over to see if

they could help. Construction workers were yelling "Hello?" as they peered into the rubble, he said.

"People were shouting into bricks trying to help people," said McLaughlin, a high school senior who was in the area because he had a dental appointment. He said he had worked for about 15 minutes helping to pull out two women.

The women did not seem to have been seriously hurt, he said.

Carlton Williams, the city's commissioner of the Department of Licenses and Inspections, said that the building had no existing violations and had been issued a demolition permit by the city in February. □

Kerry: US, Venezuela on track to better ties

Continued from front

He went on to say he and his counterpart had spent about 40 minutes going over in detail areas in which the two countries could cooperate. "We agreed today — both of us, Venezuela and the United States — that we would like to see our countries find a new way forward, establish a more constructive and positive relationship and find the ways to do that," he told reporters after the meeting. It took place in Guatemala on the sidelines of the annual Organization of American States general assembly. "We agreed today there would be an ongoing, continuing dialogue at

the appointment of ambassadors between our nations." That process, he said, could lead "ultimately to a series of steps that will indicate to the people of both countries as well as to the region that we're finding a way forward to a more constructive and understandable relationship." The two countries haven't had ambassadors posted in each other's capitals since 2010 near the height of the estrangement between the U.S. and late populist Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, who died in March. The Obama administration has been eager to mend ties with Venezuela since the death of Chavez, who

protege who claimed victory in the presidential election, expelled two U.S. military attaches in March the same day Chavez died, accusing them of trying to foment instability, and Tracy's arrest came amid domestic political turmoil over the election to replace Chavez. In addition to being the first ministerial level meeting between the two nations since 2009, Wednesday's talks were the first significant contact between the two since the disputed April 14 election to replace Chavez. The opposition is still contesting the results. Washington is willing to work with Maduro's new government but has said opposition questions about

foreign minister, I want to thank President Maduro for taking the step to meet here on the sidelines of this conference," Kerry said. "I think it was a very important step." U.S. officials have said despite the desire to move forward with a new chapter in ties with Venezuela, Washington would not stop expressing concerns about democracy and human rights in the country, particularly after the election. Shortly before the two men were to meet, Venezuela released Tracy who had been jailed for what authorities said were attempts to destabilize the country. President Barack Obama called that allegation "ridiculous." Family and

Monsanto says modified wheat 'isolated' event

NIGEL DUARA
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A genetically modified test strain of wheat that emerged to the surprise of an Oregon farmer last month was likely the result of an accident or deliberate mixing of seeds, the company that developed it said Wednesday. Representatives for Monsanto Co. said during a conference call that the emergence of the genetically modified strain was an isolated occurrence. It has tested the original wheat stock and found it clean, the company said. Sabotage is a possibility, said Robb Fraley, Monsanto chief technology officer. "We're considering all options and that's certainly one of the options," Fraley said. Fraley said the company has a test it has shared with other countries that could "fingerprint" the exact variety of wheat that carried the gene, and it's awaiting samples from the U.S. Department of Agriculture or the Oregon farmer to test for the exact variety that emerged. The USDA has said the Oregon wheat is safe to eat and there is no evidence that modified wheat entered the marketplace. No genetically engineered wheat has been approved for U.S. farming. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said he would not address Monsanto's suggestions that it could have been sabotage. "I'm not going to speculate on what could or couldn't have happened," Vilsack told reporters in Washington, D.C., Wednesday. "Because you could go down that road and we'd be here all day." Fifteen inspectors from the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service are working on the investigation. Vilsack said the department's priorities are to investigate and also to focus on getting markets open as quickly as they can after some overseas markets balked at the discovery of the modified crop. □



Secretary of State John Kerry, left, and Venezuelan Foreign Minister Elias Jose Jaua shake hands as they pose for a photo during a meeting of the 43rd General Assembly of the Organization of American States, OAS, in Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala, Wednesday, June 5, 2013.

(AP Photo/Moises Castillo)

a high-level between the State Department and the foreign ministry and we will try to set out an agenda on which we agree on things we can work on together," Kerry said. He said the two countries aim to "begin to change the dialogue between our countries and hopefully quickly move to

delighted in tweaking the United States and pursued policies that U.S. officials regarded as hostile. However, until Wednesday there had been little to show for the outreach. In fact, U.S.-Venezuelan relations had been especially tense in recent months. Nicolas Maduro, a Chavez

the electoral process must be addressed. The Obama administration has backed opposition candidate Henrique Capriles' call for a full recount. But Kerry offered his thanks to Maduro, referring to him as president, after his meeting with the foreign minister. "I want to thank the for-

friends say the 35-year-old Hollywood producer and actor had been making a documentary about Venezuelan politics when he was arrested on April 24 at the Caracas airport as he tried to leave the country to attend his father's 80th birthday in suburban Detroit. □

Rice to replace Donilon in the top national security post

Mark Landler

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WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama announced Wednesday afternoon that Susan E. Rice, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, would replace Tom Donilon, who is resigning, as national security adviser in a major shakeup of his foreign-policy inner circle.

The appointment, which Obama made in a Rose Garden ceremony, puts Rice, 48, an outspoken diplomat and a close political ally, at the heart of the administration's foreign-policy apparatus.

It is also a defiant gesture to Republicans who harshly criticized Rice for presenting an erroneous account of the deadly attacks on the U.S. mission in Benghazi, Libya. The post of national security adviser, while powerful, does not require Senate confirmation.

Obama also named Samantha Power, a National Security Council official, as Rice's replacement at the

United Nations on Wednesday. Power, who has written extensively about genocide, is closely allied

on issues from counterterrorism to the reorientation of America to Asia from the wars in Afghani-

him as a sharp-elbowed fighter and a domineering boss, who had strained relationships with colleagues,

a "very good relationship with Tom." He added, "It pains me to think anybody would think he's leaving because of me."

For Rice, the appointment amounts to redemption after she withdrew from consideration as secretary of state because Republicans threatened to block her nomination over Benghazi. Rice, using talking points drafted by the CIA, said the assault appeared to be a protest gone awry rather than a premeditated terrorist attack. That proved incorrect, and though Rice cautioned that the account could change with further intelligence, Republicans accused her of sanitizing the truth for political reasons. Obama steadfastly defended Rice, and after he nominated John Kerry instead of her, White House officials said she became the front-runner to succeed Donilon, who has been in the job since October 2010 and had been the principal deputy before that. □



President Barack Obama with officials after an announcement in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, June 5, 2013. Obama announced on Wednesday that Samantha Powers would replace Susan Rice as the American ambassador to the United Nations, and that Rice would replace Tom Donilon, who is resigning, as national security adviser in a major shakeup of his foreign-policy inner circle. From left: Powers, Rice, Obama, and Donilon.

(Christopher Gregory/The New York Times)

with Rice on human rights issues.

A central member of Obama's foreign-policy team since he first took office, Donilon, 58, has exerted sweeping influence, mostly behind the scenes,

stan ... (Continued on next page) and Iraq.

But Donilon has also hit a rough patch recently, with the publication of an unflattering profile in Foreign Policy magazine that cast

including his former deputy, Denis R. McDonough, now the White House chief of staff.

Donilon and McDonough, however, both denied those reports, with McDonough saying he had

Report: U.S. hasn't seen expected 'Great Recovery'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The expected U.S. "Great Recovery" hasn't materialized and the economy has fallen short of even normal growth, according to a forecast released Wednesday. The second-quarter UCLA Anderson Forecast said the growth of real gross domestic product — meaning the inflation-adjusted value of goods and services produced — is too small to help the nation climb out of its slump.

The figure was 15.4 percent below a "normal" growth trend, forecast director Edward Leamer wrote.

"To get back to that 3 percent trend, we would need 4 percent growth for 15 years, or 5 percent growth for eight years, or 6 percent growth for five years, not the disappointing twos and threes we have been racking up recently," he said.

"It's not a recovery. It's not even normal growth. It's bad," he wrote.

A real GDP growth rate of just 1.9 percent is expected for this year, only rising to 3 percent in 2015, according to the forecast.

The figures will get a boost from a recovering housing market, forecasters said, with housing starts jumping from the historic low of 550,000 in 2009 to 1.5 million by 2015.

Unemployment should fall to 6.9 percent next year and 6.6 percent by 2015, according to the forecast — partly due, however, to discouraged workers dropping out of the labor force. Leamer said that while jobs are being created, "the tepid growth continues to obscure the nation's most fundamental problems: too much government spending funded

with too much borrowing, too little national savings to cover late-in-life health

care issues and too many workers lacking the skills to compete in the modern



Traders Dan Ryan, left, and Gordon Charlop work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. A nervous debate is raging among investors and analysts: Have the Federal Reserve's record-low interest rates inflated a stock market bubble that's destined to burst? Three-quarters of the economists surveyed by The Associated Press say stocks, which have rocketed 21 percent since mid-November, aren't overvalued. Many point to corporate profits, which reached record levels at the end of 2012, as justifying the stock market's outsize gains.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

economy," according to a University of California, Los Angeles press statement.

In addition, the jobs being created may not provide workers with a secure future and the education system is failing to provide skills such as analytical thinking that will be crucial for future workers, he wrote. "Regrettably we reward teachers if their students can regurgitate the information on standardized tests," Leamer wrote. California, meanwhile, outperformed the nation in job growth during a 12-month period that ended in April. Only Utah's growth rate was greater, the forecast said.

The forecast for all of 2013 is for total California employment growth of 2.6 percent, slightly higher than predictions for national growth. □

Defense report: Post-bin Laden raid security lapse

ROBERT BURNS

AP National Security Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — Several weeks after overseeing the raid that killed Osama bin Laden, then-CIA Director Leon Panetta violated security rules by revealing the name of the raid commander to the writer of the film "Zero Dark Thirty," according to a draft report by U.S. Defense Department investigators.

The unpublished report was first disclosed by the Project on Government Oversight and confirmed Wednesday by Rep. Peter King, who asked for the investigation nearly two years ago.

King, a Republican, said he has been briefed on contents of the report but has not been told when a final version will be completed. He said it confirmed his suspicion that the Democratic Obama administration cut corners on security in its dealings with Hollywood executives eager to produce a film about the May 2, 2011, raid on bin Laden's compound in Pakistan. "CIA was very sloppy and the administration was very

sloppy in enforcing security procedures when it came to Hollywood," King said in a telephone interview. "It almost seems as if they were star-struck."

The episode is among many

Army Col. Steve Warren, said the Defense Department had no comment on the draft report by its inspector general.

Bridget Serchak, a spokeswoman for the inspector

tion officials divulged the names of individuals involved in the bin Laden operation — in both cases to makers of the film "Zero Dark Thirty." The movie told the story of the decade-long hunt for the al-Qaida leader and the Navy commando raid in which he was killed.

The first instance was a July 15, 2011, interview of the Pentagon's top intelligence official, Michael Vickers, by the film's director, Kathryn Bigelow, and screenwriter Mark Boal. In that session Vickers gave them the name of a special operations planner whose identity was supposed to be protected from public release, the report said.

The second instance was a June 24, 2011, awards ceremony at CIA headquarters in which Panetta identified the ground commander of the SEALs raid, with Boal in attendance. The report did not say whether Panetta knew Boal was present. But a former agency official who was present at the ceremony said Wednesday that Panetta did not know Boal was in the au-

dience and assumed that everyone in the audience of at least several hundred people had proper security clearances. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because a security matter was involved.

The report said the ground commander's name was supposed to be protected from public release, under federal law. It also said without further explanation that Panetta "also provided (Defense Department) information identified by original classification authorities as top secret."

The report did not address the question of possible penalties for Panetta's actions.

Several days after the ceremony, Panetta became defense secretary. He held that post until February 2013, when he retired.

A telephone call to his office in California on Wednesday was not immediately returned.

"I think Secretary Panetta should explain what happened, why it happened," King said. "And that's all I'll say right now on it. It is a serious matter. □"



In this file photo, then-CIA Director nominee Leon Panetta testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington. Several weeks after overseeing the raid that killed Osama bin Laden, then-CIA Director Leon Panetta violated security rules by revealing the name of the raid commander in the presence of a Hollywood screenwriter, according to a draft report by Pentagon investigators.

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

that have raised questions about leaks of classified information and the apparently selective enforcement of security rules by government officials.

A Pentagon spokesman,

general, said there is no projected date for finishing the report. She said if it is unclassified when completed, it will be made public.

The report cited two instances when administra-

US soldier says no reason for Afghan massacre

GENE JOHNSON

Associated Press

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Washington (AP) — The U.S. soldier accused of killing 16 Afghan civilians, many of them women and children who were asleep in their villages, pleaded guilty to murder and acknowledged that there was "not a good reason in this world" for his actions. Robert Bales' plea Wednesday ensures that he will avoid the death penalty for the nighttime slayings that so inflamed tensions with Afghans that the U.S. military briefly suspended combat operations there. Prosecutors say Bales slipped away before dawn on March 11, 2012, from his base in Kandahar Province. Armed with a 9 mm pistol and an M-4 rifle equipped with a grenade launcher, he attacked a village of mud-walled compounds

called Alkozai, then returned and woke up a fellow soldier to tell him about it.

The soldier didn't believe Bales and went back to sleep. Bales then left to

attack a second village known as Najiban.

Relatives of the dead were outraged at the idea that Bales could escape execution when they spoke to The Associated Press in April.



In this detail from a courtroom sketch, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Robert Bales, right, sits with one of his civilian attorneys, Emma Scanlan, left, Wednesday, June 5, 2013, during a plea hearing in a military courtroom at Joint Base Lewis McChord in Washington state. Bales pleaded guilty to multiple counts of murder, stemming from a pre-dawn attack on two villages in Kandahar Province in Afghanistan in March, 2012.

(AP Photo/Peter Milet)

"A prison sentence doesn't mean anything," said Said Jan, whose wife and three other relatives were killed. "I know we have no power now. But I will become stronger, and if he does not hang, I will have my revenge."

A jury will decide in August whether Bales is sentenced to life with or without the possibility of parole.

Wednesday's proceedings marked the first time the 39-year-old Bales provided a public account of the massacre.

At one point, the judge asked Bales why he killed the villagers.

"I've asked that question a million times since then," Bales replied. "There's not a good reason in this world for why I did the horrible things I did."

Bales said he decided to kill everyone after struggling with one of the women.

Survivors who testified by video link from Afghanistan during a hearing last year vividly recalled the carnage.

A young girl described hiding behind her father as he was shot to death. Boys told of hiding behind curtains as others begged the soldier to spare them, yelling, "We are children! We are children!" The deaths raised questions about the frequency of combat deployments and post-traumatic stress disorder. Bales was serving his fourth deployment. Until the attacks, he had a good, if undistinguished, military record in a decade-long career. He suffered from PTSD and a traumatic brain injury, his lawyers say, and he had been drinking contraband alcohol and snorting Valium — both provided by other soldiers — the night of the killings. □

British, French claims put Obama in tough spot

BRADLEY KLAPPER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is facing a new quandary from a pair of assertive allies, France and Britain, that suggest his stated “red line” for more forceful U.S. action in the Syrian civil war has been crossed with solid evidence of chemical weapons use by the Assad regime.

Mindful of America's own checkered intelligence record, U.S. officials insist they still lack incontrovertible proof that Syrian President Bashar Assad ordered the use of chemical weapons. Even after France's declaration that it has “no doubt” about Assad's hand in at least one chemical attack, the Obama administration isn't talking about intervening in Syria's 27-month conflict that has drawn in Hezbollah and al-Qaida-linked militants on opposing sides.

The administration fears plunging the United States into an Iraq-like calamity based on misleading or incomplete evidence — or getting involved militarily at all.

“Make no mistake whatsoever, the president's red line is real, the president said it would be a game changer,” Secretary of State John Kerry told reporters in Guatemala on Wednesday, adding that

France was sending its chemical weapons evidence to the U.S. for review. “The president has a whole set of options on the table and all of them are alive.”

At the White House, press secretary Jay Carney cau-

summer that Assad's use of chemical weapons or transfer to extremist groups such as Hezbollah would constitute a “red line” that would have “extraordinary consequences,” the United States has left open the possibility of all actions

as more than 70,000 people have been killed and Assad's forces have made significant gains against the rebels, the administration has played down threats of any armed action as long as Syria's vast chemical weapons stock-

Swedish chemical weapons expert Ake Sellstrom, who heads the U.N. investigation team appointed by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, also has questions about the evidence he received Tuesday from the French government.

“Sellström cautions that the validity of the information is not ensured in the absence of convincing evidence of the chain-of-custody of the data collected,” U.N. spokesman Martin Nesirky said.

Sellstrom and the secretary-general again urged Syria to allow the U.N. team into the country, stressing that “on-site activities are essential if the United Nations is to be able to establish the facts,” Nesirky said. Firming up evidence of such weapons use is thus paramount, especially after the U.S. spent more than \$800 billion and lost almost 5,000 soldiers in an Iraq war justified on exaggerated claims about Saddam Hussein's nuclear ambitions and weapons of mass destruction programs. □



President Barack Obama walks from the Marine One helicopter on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, after visiting Walter Reed National Military Medical Center to meet with wounded troops.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

tioned that the U.S. still needed to see evidence that “makes a concrete case for the assertion that chemical weapons have been used, that can demonstrate when and by whom they were used and the consequences of that use.”

For the United States, the stakes are high. Since Obama declared last

summer that Assad's use of chemical weapons or transfer to extremist groups such as Hezbollah would constitute a “red line” that would have “extraordinary consequences,” the United States has left open the possibility of all actions

as more than 70,000 people have been killed and Assad's forces have made significant gains against the rebels, the administration has played down threats of any armed action as long as Syria's vast chemical weapons stock-

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Political leaders gather to pay tribute to Sen. Frank Lautenberg

Marc Santora

David M. Halbfinger

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NEW YORK - When Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg pushed to ban smoking on airplanes, a pitched battle ensued. When he moved to raise the drinking age to 21, there was an outcry. That there was a fight at all may now seem remarkable, but at Lautenberg's funeral on Wednesday, speaker after speaker said it was the fight that drove him.

"He dared greatly, and he led boldly," said former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who was joined by Vice President Joe Biden and hundreds of other political leaders, friends and family members to pay tribute to Lautenberg's nearly three decades in public office serving New Jersey.

They spoke about how his character was shaped by the poverty of his boyhood in Paterson, N.J., forged by the trials of war and revealed in the battles he chose to wage as a lawmaker.

Lautenberg, who was 89 when he died Monday after suffering complications from viral pneumonia, was the last surviving veteran of World War II serving in the Senate.

Biden said that his former Senate colleague was more fortunate than many of those he served with because he was able to see the impact of the laws he championed in his lifetime - including lowering the number of deaths from drinking and driving by raising the drinking age and helping ease the way

for hundreds of thousands of immigrants persecuted in their own country to find refuge in the United States. "Even when his health was failing, he never gave up, he never gave in," Biden said, noting that even in his last days Lautenberg was pushing to reform the laws regarding chemical toxins

ers to Washington fixtures. Nearly half the Senate, 41 members, were on hand, as well as six members of the House of Representatives.

Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey, who on Tuesday announced plans to hold a special election in October so that voters can choose

the seat and who has proclaimed his intention to run for the Senate.

At times, the gathering had as much a feel of a reunion as a funeral.

Lautenberg's stepdaughter, Danielle Englehardt, joked about how when he introduced her to former Sen. Strom Thurmond,

Lautenberg. After the service, his coffin was to be taken to the rail station at Secaucus Junction, which was renamed in his honor for his years spent championing Amtrak and other mass transit projects, and then was to start a journey to Washington.

On Thursday, his coffin will be placed in the Senate chamber, where he will lie in repose and the public will be able to pay its respects.

On Friday morning, Lautenberg will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Rabbi Elliot J. Cosgrove, who offered the opening remarks, said Lautenberg's character was forged in the trials of his youth, when the family did not have enough money to pay for his bar mitzvah.

Lautenberg was born in Paterson in 1924. His father, Sam, worked in the city's silk mills, and Cosgrove said the senator "lived with the memory of his father running his fingers across a machine filled with chemical soot." He was only 19 when his father died. Rabbi Daniel Cohen, the leader of a synagogue in South Orange, N.J., where Lautenberg worshipped, said that in the weeks before his death, Lautenberg told him he wanted to be remembered as not just a father, a lawmaker and a statesman, but also "as a man from humble beginnings who did good."

Lautenberg's four children from his first marriage, to Lois Levenson, which ended in divorce in 1988, spoke next, sharing private stories about a man who lived a most public life. □



Men carry the coffin of New Jersey Sen. Frank Lautenberg for his funeral services into the Park Avenue Synagogue in New York, June 5, 2013. Lautenberg, who fought the alcohol and tobacco industries and promoted Amtrak as a five-term U.S. senator from New Jersey, died Monday morning from complications with viral pneumonia according to his office.

(Todd Heisler/The New York Times)

used in everyday products. "It was not his health he was concerned about; it was the health of the people of New Jersey," he said. "The health of the people of this country."

The Park Avenue Synagogue in Manhattan, where the service was held, was filled with a tableaux of political friends and foes who spanned several generations and ranged from local New Jersey lawmakers

a replacement for Lautenberg, was there, as were several former governors, including Jon S. Corzine, James J. Florio and James E. McGreevey.

Sitting near Christie, a Republican, were several lawmakers who are lobbying to be appointed by him to fill Lautenberg's seat, as well as Mayor Cory A. Booker of Newark, whom Democrats consider their best bet to hold onto

R-S.C., he immediately offered a "big hug."

"Boy did I get one," she said to knowing laughs, adding, "A strong man for his age and surprisingly affectionate."

Biden picked up on the theme later, noting that he had given a eulogy at Thurmond's funeral as well. "This is a lot easier," he said. The funeral marked the first of three days of ceremonies planned to honor

Huge shark caught off California could be record



This June 4, 2013 photo courtesy Ray Pacheco shows the 1,323-pound mako shark on the back of a boat trailer being taken for an accurate weight reading to Gardena, Calif. The huge mako shark caught off the coast of Southern California on Monday June 3, 2013 could set a record, but a critic said it should have been released because sharks are threatened worldwide. Jason Johnston of Texas caught the 1,323-pound shark off Huntington Beach after a 2 1/2-hour battle.

(AP Photo/Courtesy Ray Pacheco)

HUNTINGTON BEACH, California (AP) — A huge mako shark caught off the coast of California could set a record, but a critic said it should have been released because sharks are threatened worldwide. Jason Johnston caught the 1,323-pound (600-kilogram) shark on Monday after a 2 1/2-hour battle, the Orange County Register reported. "I've hunted lions and brown bears, but I've never experienced anything like this," Johnston told the newspaper. "It felt like I had a one-ton diesel truck at the end of the line, and it wasn't budging." If the catch is confirmed and meets conditions, it

would exceed the record mako catch made in 2001 off Massachusetts, said Jack Vitek, world records coordinator for the International Game Fish Association. The shark should have been released, argued David McGuire, director of the California-based protection advocacy group Shark Stewards. "People should be viewing these sharks as wonderful animals that are important to the ocean and admiring how beautiful they are" rather than "spilling their blood and guts," McGuire told the Times. Only 23 of the 6,850 world records on file with the game association involve

fish topping 1,300 pounds, Vitek said. The largest catch was a 2,664-pound (1,200-kilogram) great white shark that was taken in 1959 off the Australian coast. The shark was being kept on ice and will be donated to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association for research. Johnston came to California to film a game-hunting television program for the Outdoor Channel. Johnston defended the catch. "There are not that many sharks being taken out of the water," Johnston told the Times. "It's not hurting the population. If we pull four fish out of the water per year, that's just four." □

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Germany: Copters pluck families from raging floods

**DOROTHEE THIESING
JAN GEBERT**
Associated Press
DRESDEN, Germany (AP)

— Desperate families were plucked from rooftops by helicopters, cars were swept away by raging torrents and levees failed without warning Wednesday as central Europe staggered under an inland ocean of flooding.

Tens of thousands of people had to be evacuated in Germany and the Czech Republic and chemical plants along the mighty Danube and Elbe rivers were hastily shut down. City officials, federal troops and emergency workers across a vast region either raced to prepare or struggled to cope as flood crests roared downstream. Near the southeastern German town of Deggendorf, two levees broke along the Danube and Isar rivers and their raging waters engulfed nearby houses. A southern German highway disappeared under the muddy floodwaters, cars were swept away and only the top of a few trucks peeked out above the waters.

Families scrambled to their rooftops and were airlifted to safety.

"This is an absolutely life-threatening situation," local firefighter Alois Schraufstetter said. "Houses are covered up to 3 meters (10 feet) deep in water."

Four farmers were rescued at the last minute by a helicopter airlift as floods submerged their tractor, he said. About 2,000 people were evacuated.

"We would have risked our lives had we stayed at home," resident Hans Loefflmann said, adding

that he and his wife had to leave all their valuables behind when the floods gushed into their house within minutes.

times its usual height. After inundating parts of Prague, a surge on the Elbe was now roaring north toward Germany, particu-

ing sand bags, reinforcing levees and building elevated walkways to flooded homes.

"In Dresden, we have doz-



Local residents are being evacuated by the German army Bundeswehr in light of the rising floodwater of the River Elbe in Dresden, Germany, Wednesday June 5, 2013. Heavy rainfalls caused flooding in parts of Germany, Austria and Czech Republic.

(AP Photo/dpa, Michael Kappeler)

Firefighters said more than 19,000 people were evacuated from the flooding in the Czech Republic.

In the eastern German city of Halle, the downtown area flooded despite frantic efforts to protect it with sandbag barriers. Authorities urged 30,000 residents to leave their homes as the Saale river reached its highest level in 400 years.

"We fought against the water all day yesterday, and we've lost," said Julia Linne, an employee at an intensive care home in Halle. "At one point we just gave up."

In the Czech Republic, authorities said the water in the Elbe was expected to reach 11 meters (36 feet) early Thursday in the country's north, almost four

times its usual height. The river, which was expected to crest early Thursday, was running about 7 meters (21 feet) over normal levels Wednesday.

Overall, 16 people have died since the beginning of the flooding last week, including eight people in the Czech Republic, five in Germany, two in Austria and one in Slovakia. At least four other people were missing in the Czech Republic, according to the interior minister.

Hundreds of German police officers and volunteers were helping to fight the floods along with about 5,600 soldiers and 2,000 members of Germany's national disaster team, fill-

ing sand bags, reinforcing levees and building elevated walkways to flooded homes. Alena Lacinova despaired at how much she would have to rebuild after watching the water wash into her home. In many places, even protective barriers were unable to stop the surge.

"At the moment, we have about 2.5 meters (8 feet) of water inside."

ens of members instructing some 300 volunteers on how to build a temporary dam to hold the water back from one of the city's main thoroughfares," disaster team member Carolin Petschke said.

In villages around Usti nad Labem, a city of 100,000 in the northern Czech Republic, police in boats were handing out drinking water and medicine to those who had not evacuated.

US to deploy Patriots, F-16s across Jordan

JAMAL HALABY
Associated Press

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) — The U.S. will send anti-missile batteries and fighter jets to Jordan at the kingdom's request to boost defense capabilities in the face of an attack from neighboring Syria, Jordanian officials said Wednesday.

The equipment is being sent to Jordan as part of preparations for an annual joint military exercise, but the officials said some would be kept in the country amid fears that the civil war raging in Syria will spill over the border.

The U.S.-made Patriot batteries are designed to detect and shoot down Scud and other short-range missiles, which are part of Syria's arsenal. They could also be used in enforcing a no-fly-zone, which is backed by Jordan and other neighbors of Syria. A no-fly zone is so far opposed by the U.S. and its allies but is considered in the range of possibilities.

That could fuel speculation about a possible U.S. military offensive, although Washington has repeatedly said that was unlikely of offer more than non-lethal aid. A series of regime successes against the rebels fighting to oust President Bashar Assad is likely to build pressure on the international community to act. Two Jordanian security officials involved in the deployment, expected in the coming days, said that Washington is sending one or two Patriot missile batteries to the northern border with Syria and a squadron of 12 to 24 F-16 warplanes as part of the international military maneuver "Eager Lion." □

Netanyahu cool to Arab initiative

JOSEF FEDERMAN

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's prime minister on Wednesday gave a cool reception to a renewed peace offer from the Arab world, in a fresh sign of trouble for U.S. efforts to restart Mideast peace talks.

With Secretary of State John Kerry expected to return to the region next week as part of his mission to resume Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, neither side seems to be yielding ground. Kerry has indicated that his patience is wearing thin and that he may turn his focus elsewhere if his efforts do not yield results. Kerry had trumpeted the Arab peace initiative as a significant achievement when he persuaded the Arab League to relaunch it in late April, with slight changes meant to entice Israel. But during a parliamentary debate on the peace plan Wednesday, Netanyahu made scant mention of the plan and gave no indication that he was willing to embrace it. "We are willing to discuss initiatives that are offers, not dictates," he said. "We are in favor of negotiating without preconditions immediately."

When it was first issued in 2002, the Arab initiative was a breakthrough, ending decades of official refusal to recognize Israel's right to exist.

The initiative, endorsed by the Arab League and the 57-member Organization of Islamic Cooperation, offered Israel normalized relations in exchange for a full withdrawal from territories captured in 1967 to make way for a Palestinian state. However, it was overshadowed by Israeli-Palestinian fighting and was greeted with skepticism by Israel.

In a significant step, Kerry persuaded the Arab League in April not only to renew its peace initiative, but to sweeten it by saying the final borders between Israel and a future Palestine could be modified from the 1967 lines through agreed land swaps. □

Iran presidential candidates debate freedoms



Iranian presidential candidate Hasan Rowhani, right, speaks, as his rivals, from left, Mohsen Rezaei, Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, Gholam Ali Haddad Adel, Ali Akbar Velayati, Saeed Jalili, Mohammad Reza Aref, and Mohammad Gharazi, listen to him, in a TV debate, in a state-run TV studio, on Wednesday, June 5, 2013 in Tehran, Iran.

(AP Photo/IRIB, Mehdi Dehghan)

ALI AKBAR DAREINI

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — The eight candidates running in Iran's June 14 election for president took radically different stands on personal freedoms, women's rights and censorship in the country's second round of televised debates Wednesday. Moderates vowed to loosen restrictions and hard-liners backed strong state intervention in people's lives.

The four-hour debate focused on cultural issues. A previous round covered the economy, and an upcoming debate will be devoted to foreign policy and security.

The election is to pick a successor to President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who cannot run for a third term. His re-election in 2009 was hotly disputed and set off weeks of street riots. Since then, heavy government repression has driven reformers off the streets, and last month, leading reform-minded candidates for president were disqualified.

Iran's president does not have control of central issues like nuclear development policy, but a president who has a close relationship with Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali

Khamenei can wield influence.

During the debate, centrist Hasan Rowhani said he would form a women's affairs ministry if elected, but Saeed Jalili, Iran's top nuclear negotiator, said the best job for a woman is to

be a mother.

Pro-reform candidate Mohammad Reza Aref insisted that Iranians have social and cultural rights under the constitution, complaining that the government looks at rights as a privilege it can deny, while imposing

censorship at will.

"The solution to the country's cultural problems is to minimize the government's interference and allow guild associations and experts to run their own affairs," said Rowhani, Iran's former top nuclear negotiator. "Women work but don't enjoy equal rights. I'll allocate special insurance for women and will form a women affairs ministry to return their trampled rights to them."

Hard-liner Jalili disagreed.

"The main role for a woman is to be a mother. If we look at mother as a fulltime role to raise children properly, many social ills would be erased," he said.

Aref, a former vice president when reformist leader Mohammad Khatami was president, said steps like banning satellite dishes, imposing media censorship, questioning university teachers and creating a tense security atmosphere in universities in recent years under Ahmadinejad have only caused disappointment and a sense of insecurity for Iran's 76 million people. □

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Syrian Regime deals severe blow to rebels in Qusair

BASSEM MROUE
ZEINA KARAM

Associated Press

BAALBEK, Lebanon (AP)

— Syrian troops and their Lebanese Hezbollah allies captured a strategic border town Wednesday after a grueling three-week battle, dealing a severe blow to rebels and opening the door for President Bashar Assad's regime to seize back the country's central heartland.

The regime triumph in Qusair, which Assad's forces had bombarded for months without success, demonstrates the potentially game-changing role of Hezbollah in Syria's civil war. The gain could also embolden Assad to push for all-out military victory rather than participate in peace talks being promoted by the United States and Russia.

The Shiite militant group lost dozens of fighters in the battle for Qusair, underlining its commitment in support of Assad's regime and

edging the fight in Syria further into a regional sectarian conflict pitting the Middle East's Iranian-backed Shiite axis against Sunnis.

Most of the armed rebels in Syria are members of the country's Sunni Muslim majority, while Assad has retained core support among the country's minorities, including his own Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shiite Islam, along with Christians and Shiite Muslims.

The overt involvement by Hezbollah, which is heavily invested in the survival of the Damascus regime, has raised tensions considerably in Lebanon, where the militants have come under harsh criticism.

The group openly celebrated Qusair's fall on Wednesday.

In the predominantly Shiite northeastern town of Bazzalieh, near the Lebanese city of Baalbek, Hezbollah supporters set up a checkpoint, distributing sweets to people and firing in the air in celebration. "Today, we

defeated the other Israel," declared Ali al-Bazzal, 23, waving a yellow Hezbollah flag.

In Hezbollah strongholds in southern Beirut, sounds

a key crossroads town of supply lines between Damascus and western and northern Syria that had been under rebel control since early last year.



Syrian army troops hold up national flags in the town of Qusair, near the Lebanon border, Homs province, Syria, Wednesday, June 5, 2013.

(AP Photo/SANA)

of celebratory gunfire and fireworks rang out for two hours. "Qusair has fallen," read banners hung in the streets.

Both sides had dug in for an all-out battle for Qusair,

Over the past two months, the Syrian army has moved steadily against rebels in key battleground areas, making advances near the border with Lebanon and considerably lowering the

threat to Damascus, the seat of Assad's government.

Qusair's fall could boost the momentum for Syrian troops in rolling back rebel gains in other parts of central Homs province, as well as in northern Syria, where the sides have been locked in a stalemate for months. Pro-regime media outlets have said government forces are preparing to move to recapture the contested northern city of Aleppo next.

The blow to the rebel movement — compounded by deepening divisions in opposition ranks — was likely to further discourage it from entering peace negotiations with the regime, which the United States and Russia have been trying to put together in Geneva.

Assad's regime has agreed in principle to attend, but the opposition has balked, saying it won't participate while "massacres are taking place." □

Latvia gets go-ahead to become 18th euro member

DAVID MCHUGH

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— The tiny Baltic state of Latvia has won approval to become the 18th member of the troubled euro currency union — despite doubts among many of its people and international concerns about its banking system.

European Union officials said Latvia's willingness to join next year is a vote of confidence for the shared currency. At the moment, the 17-strong group of EU countries that use the euro is struggling with a crisis over too much government debt, a stubborn recession, and 12.2 percent

unemployment.

Olli Rehn, the EU's top economic and monetary official, said Wednesday that Latvia's membership bid was "further evidence that those who predicted the disintegration of the euro area were wrong."

The EU Commission, the EU's executive arm, gave Latvia the thumbs-up Wednesday after an official review. A final decision will be made by eurozone finance ministers July 9 — following further consultation among EU leaders and Parliament. Once the formal approvals are in, Latvia is expected to replace its national currency, the lat, with the euro on Jan. 1, 2014.

Latvia's Prime Minister Valdis Dombrovskis tweeted that the decision was "the next step for growth."

Still, many among the Baltic seacoast country's 2 million people are skeptical of the need to join in the midst of the eurozone's debt troubles. Anti-euro parties won more than half the vote in local elections in the capital, Riga, last weekend.

Euro opponent Andris Orols, head of "Latvia for the Lat," vowed to ask the constitutional court to review the government's decision. "We are against the euro because we believe that an independent and sovereign country cannot exist without its own money

which it controls," he said. Latvia committed to join the euro in 2004 when it joined the European Union. Under the EU's treaty, all EU members must adopt the euro eventually although it can take years to meet the tough requirements. The only exceptions are Britain and Denmark, which were given opt-outs.

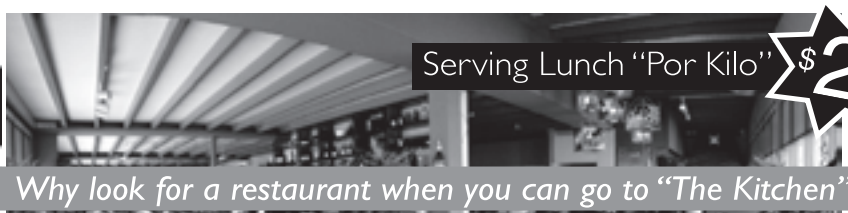
Latvia and its Baltic neighbors Lithuania and Estonia tend to be in favor of integration with western Europe, in part due to fear of pressure by Russia. They were forcibly incorporated into the Soviet Union during World War II and only regained their independence in 1991.

To join the euro, Latvia had to show the EU that it could control inflation, deficits and government debt, and keep its currency in a narrow exchange rate range with the euro.

Compared with heavily indebted euro countries such as Greece, Portugal and Italy, its government finances are in good shape. Its budget deficit at the end of 2012 was a modest 1.2 percent of annual economic output, well below the EU's 3 percent limit. Its debt burden was 41 percent of output, less than the 60 percent requirement and far less than the eurozone average of 91 percent. □

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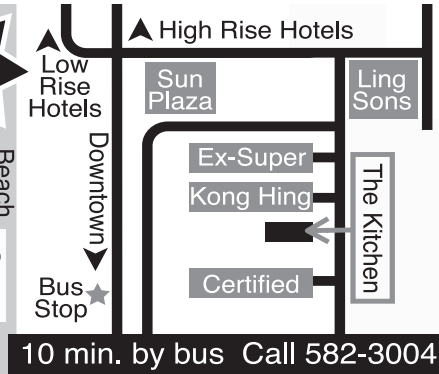


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UN condemns violent acts against children in Jamaica

DAVID McFADDEN
Associated Press
KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— The United Nations' child welfare agency said Wednesday that it is deeply concerned about what it describes as "unrelenting violence" against youngsters in Jamaica, including the recent beheading of a 4-year-old girl.

Robert Fuderich, UNICEF's representative in Jamaica, said a recent spate of grisly crimes targeting schoolchildren has underscored a chronic and disturbing problem in the Caribbean country that has put authorities on alert and parents on edge.

"The killing of several children, in close succession, is a tragic reminder of the violence being meted out to children on a daily basis," Fuderich said Wednesday. In recent days, two men were killed in an apparent reprisal killing for the slaying of an 8-year-old girl in the troubled southern city of Spanish Town. A note was left on one of the dead men's bodies stating, "Children are our future, rapist must die." Another young girl's battered corpse was found dumped in a latrine in a nearby area.

In perhaps the most gruesome attack, the decapitated body of 4-year-old Natasha Brown was found last week in a sinkhole in a rural town in northwest Jamaica. Police say the ex-girlfriend of the child's father allegedly butchered the child in a jealous rage about five months after her relationship with the father ended.

Earlier this year, Jamaica made international headlines when an 8-year-old British schoolgirl visiting

relatives in a rural village was fatally shot by a gunman who fired at a group of family members congregating in a roadside shop. UNICEF reports that 40 children were reported murdered in 2012 on the island of roughly 2.6 million inhabitants. In just the first four months of this year, 16 children were killed - almost half of last year's total.

Reports of child abuse, including neglect and rapes of schoolchildren, are also increasingly frequent. Last year, Jamaican child welfare authorities received 8,741 reports of child abuse compared to 7,826 the year before.

Fuderich believes this can be considered "good news" because it suggests that more islanders are reporting suspected or known abuse. "Early reporting can mean the difference between life and death for a child who is being abused," he said.

Jamaica has long struggled with high rates of violent crime. But the recent spate of attacks on children have renewed a sense of fear and outrage among crime-weary Jamaicans. Even in tiny, one-road communities in the countryside, some parents are reassessing whether to allow their young children to walk to school alone or run around outside unattended. Four years ago, Jamaica launched an island-wide alert system for missing children, named after a schoolgirl whose beheaded body was found in bushes off a rural road in 2008. The "Ananda Alert" system, in memory of 11-year-old Ananda Dean, was based on the U.S. "Amber Alert." □

Venezuela frees US man jailed as spy

FRANK BAJAK
Associated Press
CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— A U.S. filmmaker jailed for alleged espionage in Venezuela was expelled from the country and returned to the United States on Wednesday in a gesture that could signal a thaw in tense relations between the two countries.

The release of Timothy Tracy, 35, occurred just hours before the top diplomats of both countries agreed during a meeting in Guatemala

Both she and Delahunt also credited the U.S. State Department.

The U.S. government and friends had ridiculed the idea that Tracy was spying in Venezuela. His family said he had been making a documentary about the human costs of Venezuela's deeply polarized society.

Following the early morning expulsion, Secretary of State John Kerry met with Venezuelan Foreign Minister Elias Jaua on the side-

dent Nicolas Maduro, but "I want to keep those discussions private."

"On both sides there is a desire to have an improvement in the relationship based upon respect, and that's what's important," Delahunt said.

He suggested it might help that Kerry, then a Massachusetts senator, met Maduro a decade ago when Delahunt took a delegation of Venezuelans including Maduro on a trip to his district in Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

The trip was part of efforts by the "Grupo de Boston" in 2002-2003 to salve internal tensions in the socialist-run South American country after a failed coup against Chavez that was initially recognized by the administration of U.S. President George W. Bush.

Tracy's expulsion was initially tweeted by Venezuela's interior minister, Miguel Rodriguez, who described Tracy as having been "captured doing espionage in our country." He had previously accused Tracy of funding opposition student groups.

Attorney General Luisa Ortega said in a statement Wednesday that she had asked for the case against Tracy on charges including conspiracy and criminal association to be shelved, even though "there were elements that could incriminate him."

Family and friends say the Hollywood producer and small-time actor had been in the country since October making a documentary about Venezuelan politics when he was arrested on April 24 at Caracas' airport as he tried to leave the country to attend his father's 80th birthday in suburban Detroit. □



This family photo shows Timothy Tracy inside of a vehicle in Venezuela. The U.S. filmmaker, who was jailed on espionage charges in Venezuela, has been released and is on his way back to the United States, says his sister Tiffany Tracy.

(AP Photo/Family photo)

la to discuss restoring ambassador-level relations. It was secured with the help of former U.S. Rep. William Delahunt, who has long worked to improve often strained U.S.-Venezuelan ties and was hired by Tracy's family as an attorney in the case.

"He's been informally advising us since pretty much the onset and we retained him last week," Tracy's sister, Tiffany Klaasen, said of Delahunt, a member of the U.S. delegation at the March funeral of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez.

lines of a regional gathering in Guatemala and agreed, said Kerry, to "begin to change the dialogue between our countries and hopefully quickly move" to appoint ambassadors, which they have lacked in each other's capitals since 2010.

Delahunt acknowledged the coincidence of Tracy's release but said "no conditions" were set by Kerry for the meeting with Jaua. He said he had intervened on Tracy's behalf with officials in Venezuela, who he said did not include Presi-

ECB searches for ways to boost eurozone

DAVID McHUGH

Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— Europe's economy badly needs a push. The European Central Bank says it stands ready to help.

But how?

To stimulate growth, the ECB has already cut its benchmark interest rate to a record low, reducing borrowing costs for business and consumers in the 17 European Union countries that use the euro.

The ECB has also given banks more than 1 trillion euros (\$1.3 trillion) in cheap, three-year loans to help mitigate the effects of Europe's financial crisis. And it offered to buy unlimited amounts of government bonds to boost investors' confidence that no countries would default on their debts. No bonds have been bought, but the mere offer has significantly lowered borrowing costs for heavily indebted countries such as Italy and Spain.

But these steps have not pulled Europe out of its economic funk. The eurozone economy has contracted for six straight quarters. The economy shrank by 1 percent in the first quarter over the same quarter a year ago. Unemployment is at 12.2 percent — the highest since the euro alliance was created in 1999.

Markets may get a clearer idea of further measures the ECB is considering after its monthly rate-setting meeting on Thursday. Last month, the 23-member governing council cut its benchmark refinancing rate a quarter-point to a record low of 0.5 percent. Most economists do not expect a rate cut Thursday, but many think the ECB will eventually cut rates or take other steps if the economy doesn't start growing.

Carsten Brzeski at ING said the bank might take a "timeout" but that the "environment still looks too fragile and uncertain for the ECB to take a back seat."

Speaking to reporters after last month's rate-setting meeting, ECB President Mario Draghi said the

ECB stood "ready to act if needed" to give the eurozone a further boost.

Yet economists and even top bank officials say lower rates alone won't help much. The ECB's refinancing rate sets the cost of the loans it makes to banks and influences many borrowing rates across the economy. Problem is, the low ECB benchmark rate is not being passed on by the banks in the countries hardest hit by the debt crisis, such as Spain and Italy. Banks remain risk-averse in

bonds. This ensures the ECB will get its money back but means less credit for the banks. To give the banks greater financial firepower, the ECB could loosen its loan requirements so that banks can borrow more for every euro of collateral they put up.

GO NEGATIVE: Draghi has said the ECB has examined charging banks to maintain deposits at the bank by paying a negative interest rate. Banks park billions in cash at the ECB as a safe short-term home for money

more to small businesses, the ECB is talking with other European officials about the possibility of having a government body guarantee these loans, much the way that Fannie Mae guarantees mortgage loans in the U.S.

Banks can bundle their small business loans into bonds just like they do with mortgages. These bonds are sold to investors, who collect the interest payments and take on the risk of defaults. Banks can use the proceeds from these



European Central Bank President Mario Draghi answers a question from a participant at the International Monetary Conference in Shanghai, China. Speaking to reporters after last month's rate-setting meeting, Draghi said the ECB stood "ready to act if needed" to give the eurozone a further boost.

(AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko)

the aftermath of the financial crisis and new rules limit how much they can lend relative to how much capital they have. Some banks are having trouble borrowing themselves. So credit is hard to come by — and worst hit are small businesses.

The ECB is looking — hard — for a new way to boost a rough economy. To find one, it may have to pursue unorthodox and possibly risky methods.

Here is a look at what the ECB might try:

MORE CREDIT TO BANKS: When banks borrow from the ECB, they must put up collateral, usually bonds, in the event of a default. But the loans can be far smaller than the value of the

that isn't being invested or loaned. The bank already cut the deposit rate to zero from 0.25 percent in December. Draghi said after the ECB's May 2 policy meeting that a negative rate is not out of the question.

A negative rate could spur banks to lend that money instead of stashing it. Still, several top ECB officials and economists have been skeptical. For one thing, negative rates could dent bank profits just as they're rebuilding their finances. And banks could simply pass on the costs to customers in higher lending rates — the opposite of what the ECB wants.

SMALL BUSINESS RESCUE: To encourage banks to lend

sales to lend more to businesses.

One way to increase this activity would be for a government entity to guarantee the small-business loans. That would increase investor confidence in the bonds.

The ECB is encouraging a discussion of this idea, but it would not be the entity to back these loans. That could fall to the European Investment Bank, which is run by the European Union and already makes loans to small businesses.

Martin Hellmich, a professor of financial risk management at the Frankfurt School of Finance & Management, said having a European authority backing the bonds was crucial to this method's success. □

Dutch Court: Government to compensate coffee shops

MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — A Dutch court on Wednesday ordered the government to compensate owners of cannabis-selling cafes who say they lost money because of measures aimed at stamping out drug tourism.

But in a setback for owners of so-called coffee shops, the Hague District Court ruling also said that other moves to prevent foreigners from buying soft drugs in the Netherlands were legitimate.

The court said that turning coffee shops in the southern Netherlands into private member-only clubs last year deterred not only foreigners but also Dutch customers, and ordered compensation for the cafe owners. The amount will be settled later.

The decision was the latest skirmish in a long-running legal battle between the government that wants officially tolerated coffee shops to sell cannabis only to locals, and owners of the cafes who insist they should be allowed to sell to anybody.

Cannabis is technically illegal in the Netherlands, but police turn a blind eye to possession of small amounts and it is sold openly in coffee shops. Large-scale growers are prosecuted.

Michael Veling, a spokesman for the Dutch Union of Cannabis Retailers, said the group was disappointed by the parts of the ruling that upheld anti-drug-tourism measures, and would appeal.

Under a government policy change that came into force May 1 last year in southern provinces close to the Dutch borders with Germany and Belgium, only holders of a "weed pass" are allowed to buy cannabis. The measure took aim at problems caused by thousands of foreigners who pour across the borders each year to buy drugs. □



Recognize Excellence:

Twin Awards for Divi Resorts from TripAdvisor & Travel Life

EAGLE BEACH – Divi Resorts including Divi Mega Resort and Tamarijn Mega Resort have just received the TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence 2013-14, which honors top-rated lodging businesses, restaurants and attractions, as reviewed by travelers on the world's largest travel site.

Going through the extensive reviews of the resorts on line may be a great source of entertainment and learning as travelers bar no holds reporting at length about their dining and lodging experiences with heading such as: "Paradise –what more can say?" in French, Italian, Spanish, Dutch and English. These candid and forth-



coming reviews helped the restaurants and the resorts obtain top ratings for Family Vacations, Single Vacations, as well as dining, Business and Pleasure, no small feat considering Aruba is blessed with more than 42 hotels and 235 restaurants which are active on the

website besides many other smaller operations. As a matter of fact, to qualify for a TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence, businesses must maintain an average rating of four or higher out of a possible five, as reviewed by travelers on the site. Additional

criteria include volume of reviews and how recently they have been submitted by TripAdvisor travelers. The accolade is extended to qualifying businesses worldwide. The resorts have also been named the recipients of the TUI Travelife award, at

the end of a comprehensive sustainable audit conducted here by a visiting TUI Travelife auditor.

At the end of her visit the auditor was impressed with the environmental efforts and achievements obtained to date, and the fact that the resorts complied with the requirements of 99 strict sustainability criteria. Granting the coveted sustainability in tourism award to both Divi & Tamarijn All Inclusive Resorts, was the easy part, auditor Charmaine Sealey bantered.

Travelife helps its hospitality members develop good sustainable practices promoting their achievements within the travel industry and publishing their findings among European and international consumers. Travelife is one of the few programs in existence which values social policy as highly as environmental management, and Divi Resorts in Aruba has just obtained the organization's stamp of approval for sustainable holiday accom-

modations.

"Divi's properties are pleased to receive important travel awards," said managing director Alex Nieuwmeier. "We strive to offer our customers a memorable, sustainable experience, and the accolade is evidence that our hard work is translating into positive results."

Divi Resorts are unique vacation properties in the Caribbean. The brand, created in Aruba, invites you to explore its collection of colorful Caribbean resorts located on the magnificent islands of Aruba, Barbados, Bonaire, St Croix, and St Maarten.

Each resort offers spacious vacation suites and hotel rooms along some of the islands' best beaches- all with your choice of amenities.

Pictured here Marin Bijl, General Manager, Divi & Tamarijn All Inclusive Resorts with staff members at both the resorts, pleased and proud to receive twin awards on behalf of their peers. □






Pabien to 55 years of dedicated service!

We sincerely thank Maria (20), Milangela (10), Leo (10), Piedad (5), Mary Ann (5) and Kim (5) for their loyalty to the company and look forward to many more years





Dunkin' Donuts Announces Free Donut Offer For June 7

-Dunkin' Donuts invites guests across Aruba to enjoy a free donut with the purchase of any beverage!

ORANJESTAD - Dunkin' Donuts, one of the world's leading coffee and baked good chains, today announced a sweet deal for donut lovers across Aruba. On Friday, June 7, participating Dunkin' Donuts restaurants will offer guests a free donut of their choice (while supplies last) with the purchase of any beverage. With this special offer available to Dunkin' Donuts guests in Aruba and around the globe, it marks the brand's first-ever worldwide donut celebration. According to John Costello, President, Global Marketing and Innovation at Dunkin' Brands, the brand wants to rec-

sive variety of delicious and creative donuts, including beloved flavors such as Boston Kreme, Glazed and Chocolate Frosted. For five years running, Dunkin' Donuts has celebrated National Donut Day in the United States by offering its guests a free donut of their choice with the purchase of any beverage on the first Friday in June. This has allowed us to share the joy of donuts with our guests across the country on this special day. This promotion has successfully garnered positive media coverage, including more than 17 million media impressions in the United States for last year's promotion. Along with promoting the deal, we also incorporate other fun ways to celebrate the holiday and engage with our fans. Last year, we



ognize the joy and happiness that donuts bring to people all around the world each and every day.

"With our rich heritage as one of the world's donut leaders, we know the power that donuts have to bring smiles to the faces of our guests. We're excited to make it easy and affordable for our guests around the world to celebrate donuts on June 7 by enjoying a free donut with the purchase of any beverage," he said. For more than 60 years, Dunkin' Donuts has been a leader in the donut category, and last year sold 2.4 billion donuts and MUNCHKINS® donut hole treats at its restaurants in 31 countries around the world. It offers an exten-

sive variety of delicious and creative donuts, including beloved flavors such as Boston Kreme, Glazed and Chocolate Frosted. For five years running, Dunkin' Donuts has celebrated National Donut Day in the United States by offering its guests a free donut of their choice with the purchase of any beverage on the first Friday in June. This has allowed us to share the joy of donuts with our guests across the country on this special day. This promotion has successfully garnered positive media coverage, including more than 17 million media impressions in the United States for last year's promotion. Along with promoting the deal, we also incorporate other fun ways to celebrate the holiday and engage with our fans. Last year, we

Beauty

On The Beach

Lianna

She's from VENEZUELA. We wish them a pleasant stay here in Aruba!



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LG Smith Steak and Chop house earns 2013 Tripadvisor Certificate of Excellence



ORANJESTAD - LG Smith Steak and Chop House located on the 2nd floor of the Renaissance Mall recently announced that they were recipient of a Tripadvisor Certificate of Excellence award. The accolade, which honors hospitality excellence, is given only to establishments that consistently achieve outstanding traveler reviews

on TripAdvisor. Only the top-performing 10 percent of businesses listed on TripAdvisor receive this prestigious award.

To qualify for a Certificate of Excellence, businesses must maintain an overall rating of four or higher, out of a possible five, as reviewed by travelers on TripAdvisor, and must have been listed on TripAdvi-

sor for at least 12 months. Satisfy your inner carnivore at L.G Smith's Steak and Chop House, offering Certified Angus Beef® and an extensive selection of international wines. Sit down to dinner in an inviting, comfortable atmosphere while our professional staff caters to your every need. L.G Smith's is open nightly for dinner from 5:30pm to

11pm and hosts live entertainment every Saturday at 6:30pm, featuring popular saxophonist El Prove. For happy hour gatherings or a relaxing nightcap, come to The Lounge with more live entertainment and delicious menu available until 6am.

"LG Smith Steak and Chop House is pleased to receive a Tripadvisor Certificate of

Excellence," said Zugheila Lindeborg of the Renaissance Resort Aruba. "We strive to offer our customers a memorable dining experience, and this accolade is evidence that our hard work is translating into positive reviews. We invite you to discover Aruba's very best steaks and a full menu boasting the finest dishes in the Caribbean." □

BONUS



THURSDAY!

Super 4-Card BINGO starting at 1pm!

\$6 for 4-Card BINGO! • 8 games to play!

\$1,000 in Cash Prizes!

Additional \$500 Cash Prize in our Monthly Early Bird Drawing when you purchase your card prior to 12 noon!



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CASINO AND SHOPS

Superstar associates honored at Westin Resort Aruba!



PALM BEACH – Recently, the Brand Champions of the Month for April for the Westin Resort & Casino,

representing the Heart of the House, the Front of the House, and the resort's Palm Beach Casino, at-

Aruba were announced during a luncheon held in the resort's Grand Palm Beach Ballroom. Associates and management, there to show their support for the nominees

tended the event. All those nominated represent Westin's core values, and were tapped by management for their outstanding performances within their respective departments. The following winners were announced: Front of the House—Yolanda Reyes; Heart of the House—Erico Petro; Palm Beach Casino—Juliette Balinge. Congratulations to all! □



Catch your own dinner with Driftwood! Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009



Catch your own dinner

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You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com

Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.



Miami Heat head coach Erik Spoelstra argues with an official during the first half of Game 6 of the NBA Eastern Conference basketball finals against the Indiana Pacers in Indianapolis, Saturday, June 1, 2013.

Associated Press

Spoelstra, Popovich making the right moves

TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

MIAMI (AP) — Other than being widely known by just the first syllable of their surnames, the coaches who will match wits in these NBA Finals may seem like polar opposites. Of course, they would probably disagree with that assertion. Miami's Erik Spoelstra wears sharp suits and is a stats guy; San Antonio's Gregg Popovich often skips the tie and would immeasurably prefer to answer questions about wine than anything about himself. Both are intensely private, but even during an NBA Finals loaded with star power — the "Big Three" from Miami, the "Big Three" from San Antonio, a four-time MVP in LeBron James, a four-time champion in Tim Duncan — the coaches will share misery in one way.

Continued on Page 21

Home-loving Kings edge Blackhawks to reduce deficit

Chicago Blackhawks goalie Corey Crawford blocks a shot by the Los Angeles Kings during the third period of Game 3 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup playoffs Western Conference finals, Tuesday, June 4, 2013, in Los Angeles.

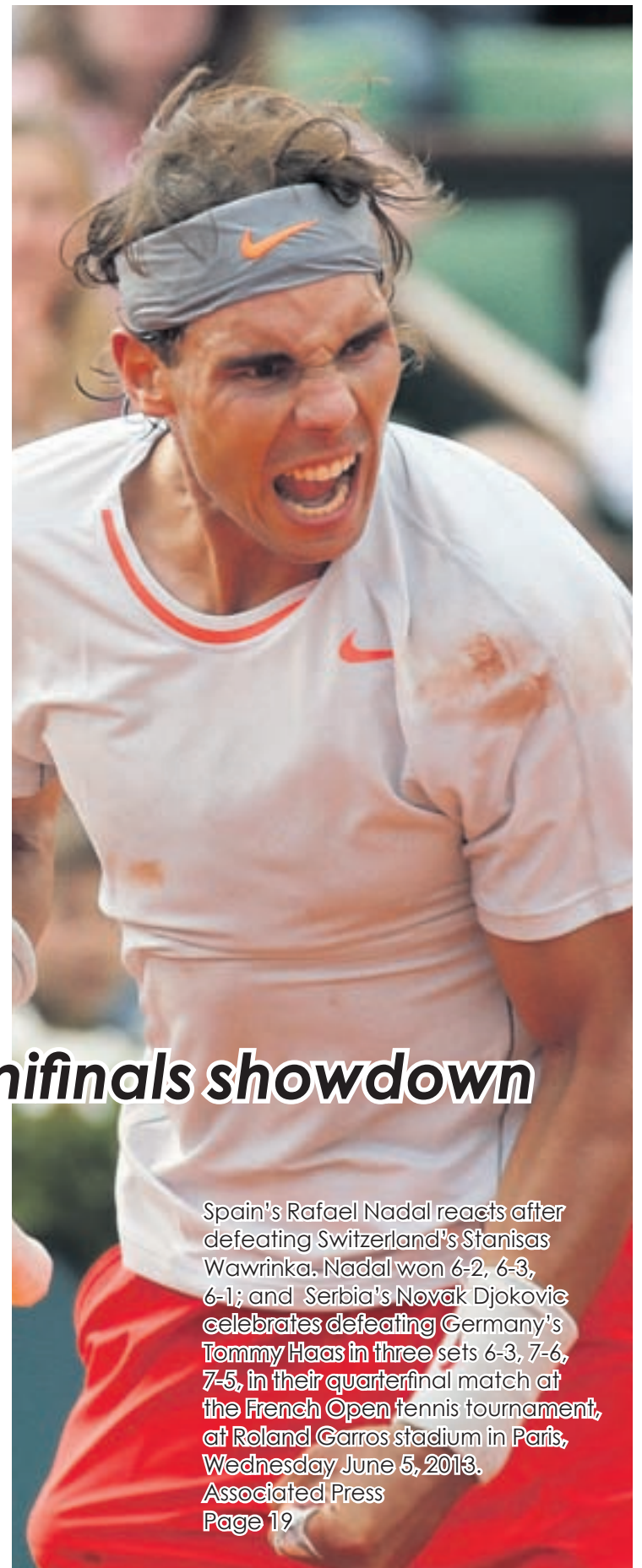
Associated Press
Page 20



CLASH of the TITANS



Rafa, Nole setup semifinals showdown



Spain's Rafael Nadal reacts after defeating Switzerland's Stanislas Wawrinka. Nadal won 6-2, 6-3, 6-1; and Serbia's Novak Djokovic celebrates defeating Germany's Tommy Haas in three sets 6-3, 7-6, 7-5, in their quarterfinal match at the French Open tennis tournament, at Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Wednesday June 5, 2013.
Associated Press
Page 19

Lindsey Vonn goes from red carpet to drug testing

NEW YORK (AP) — Talk about your random testing. Lindsey Vonn took an unexpected detour during her evening at an awards show — off the red carpet and into the women's bathroom for drug testing. The star skier was at the Council of Fashion Designers of America awards at Lincoln Center on Monday night when testers from the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency escorted her to the restroom to collect a urine sample. The sample was sent to a lab and results weren't immediately available.

USADA and Vonn's spokesman confirmed Monday's

test.

Olympic athletes are subject to random testing and required to fill out forms notifying USADA of their whereabouts at all times.

Vonn's spokesman, Lewis Kay, says the test wasn't a big deal to the skier, who wore a deep V-neck white gown by Cynthia Rowley, the designer who accompanied Vonn to the event. "She understands it is part of the job," Kay told The Associated Press in an email Wednesday.

The CFDA awards are considered the fashion industry's Oscars. Others attending the black-tie affair included Hillary Rodham

Clinton, Jessica Chastain and Ralph Lauren.

CFDA organizers, who leave no stone unturned in the planning of their awards show, said they were unaware that Vonn had been tested.

USADA said Vonn has participated in its out-of-competition testing pool for more than 12 years. The testing program requires athletes to make themselves available for tests at any time, regardless of location.

"We appreciate her professionalism and for accommodating this process, which at times can be inconvenient," USADA



World Cup alpine ski racer Lindsey Vonn arrives at the 2013 CFDA Fashion Awards at Alice Tully Hall on Monday, June 3, 2013 in New York.

Associated Press

spokeswoman Annie Skinner said.

Vonn won the gold medal in the downhill at the Vancouver Olympics in 2010. Her 2013 season ended when she injured her knee, though she is expected to return for the 2014 Games in Russia.

Most of Vonn's recent headlines, however, have come because she and Tiger Woods revealed they've been dating. They were together at a red-carpet event in New York in May, but Woods was not with Vonn at Monday's event. □

Derby winner Orb 3-1 favorite for Belmont

RICHARD ROSENBLATT

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Kentucky Derby winner Orb is the horse to beat in the Belmont Stakes.

Despite finishing fourth behind Oxbow in the Preakness, Orb was made the 3-1 morning-line favorite in a 14-horse field entered Wednesday for the final leg of the Triple Crown. The colt trained by Shug McGaughey drew the No. 5 post position.

Oxbow, who will leave from the No. 7 post for trainer D. Wayne Lukas, was the third betting choice at 5-1. Revolutionary, one of trainer Todd Pletcher's record five horses in the field, is the second choice at 9-2. The field is the largest since 1996.

"I think Shug has established his horse as the favorite today, and that's right," said Lukas, who has won a record 14 Triple Crown races, including the Belmont four times. "But I think he knows he has to take care of business in getting us out of the way, too."

Revolutionary did not run in the Preakness after finishing third in the Derby. Pletcher's other entries for the 1 1/2-mile Belmont are the



Kentucky Derby winner Orb gallops on the track during a morning workout at Belmont Park, Wednesday, June 5, 2013 in Elmont, N.Y. Orb is entered in Saturday's Belmont Stakes horse race.

Associated Press

filly Unlimited Budget, Overanalyze, Palace Malice and Midnight Taboo.

Unlimited Budget, who will be ridden by Rosie Napravnik, will attempt to become the fourth filly to win the Belmont. Pletcher's Rags to Riches was

the most recent to do it in 2007. Unlimited Budget, the co-fourth choice with Freedom Child at 8-1, won her first four starts before finishing third in the Kentucky Oaks.

"She's a big strong filly from a physical standpoint, and

she will match up well," Pletcher said. "My biggest concern is the mile-and-a-half."

McGaughey said he's pleased with the draw, which puts his colt closer to the middle of the pack rather than the rail, which

proved to be a problem in the Preakness.

"I'm going to strike a line through the Preakness," McGaughey said. "It just wasn't our day. It was Wayne Lukas and Oxbow's. And Gary Stevens. We're going to regroup and hopefully you'll see the right horse here on Saturday."

Orb, with Joel Rosario aboard, will try to become the first Derby-Belmont winner since Thunder Gulch in 1995. Oxbow seeks to become the first Preakness-Belmont winner since Aleet Alex in 2005.

The field from the rail out is Frac Daddy (Alan Garcia, 30-1), Freedom Child (Luis Saez, 8-1), Overanalyze (John Velazquez, 12-1), Giant Finish (Edgar Prado, 30-1), Orb (Joel Rosario, 3-1), Incognito (Irado Ortiz, Jr., 20-1), Oxbow (Gary Stevens, 5-1), Midnight Taboo (Garrett Gomez, 30-1), Revolutionary (Javier Castellano, 9-2), Will Take Charge (Jon Court, 20-1), Vyjack (Julien Leparoux, 20-1), Palace Malice (Mike Smith, 15-1), Unlimited Budget (Rosie Napravnik, 8-1), and Golden Soul (Robby Albarado, 10-1). □

Nadal, Djokovic to meet in French Open semifinals

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

PARIS (AP) — The ease with which Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic swept aside their quarterfinal opponents at the French Open was remarkably similar.

Both men won in straight sets Wednesday, hardly challenged. Both earned 12 break points, Nadal converting seven, Djokovic five. Nadal's serve was broken only once, Djokovic's twice.

In what amounted to heavy-duty practice sessions for the real test that lies ahead, Nadal needed 1 hour, 56 minutes to beat No. 9-seeded Stanislas Wawrinka 6-2, 6-3, 6-1 in Court Philippe Chatrier, while a short walk away, Djokovic's 6-3, 7-6 (5), 7-5 victory over No. 12 Tommy Haas in Court Suzanne Lenglen lasted just 17 minutes longer.

Now comes the showdown everyone's been anticipating since the field was set nearly two weeks ago: A Djokovic vs. Nadal semifinal Friday that will have the feel of a final, and not only because they met for the championship at Roland Garros a year ago.

"A lot of people in the tennis world are looking to the matchup coming up with Rafa and Novak," said Haas, who at 35 was the oldest French Open quarterfinalist since 1971. "I'll definitely be watching." Who wouldn't?

Djokovic, ranked and seeded No. 1, against Nadal, owner of a record seven French Open titles, including three in a row.

Djokovic, trying to become the eighth man to complete a career Grand Slam, against Nadal, trying to become the only man to win eight trophies at one major tournament.

Djokovic owns six major titles, Nadal 11.

"I would prefer an easier opponent," Nadal said.

Djokovic is 33-4 this season and reached his 12th consecutive major semifinal, the second-longest streak in history.

Nadal is 41-2 since return-



Spain's Rafael Nadal reacts after defeating Switzerland's Stanislas Wawrinka during their quarterfinal match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium Wednesday, June 5, 2013 in Paris. Nadal won 6-2, 6-3, 6-1.

Associated Press

ing in February after missing seven months because of a left knee injury he declined to discuss Wednesday.

That absence is why Nadal's ranking slid and he was seeded No. 3, so was drawn to play Djokovic in the semifinals; their previous 11 matchups came in tournament finals.

"He never gives up. I mean, that's an impressive virtue that he has. Over the years, he's been so consistent and so dominant, on this surface especially," Djokovic said. "He's struggled with injuries, came back, and lost only a few matches since he came back. You've got to respect that."

It's all enough to render Friday's other semifinal something of an afterthought, even if local fans have a rooting interest when No. 6 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France faces No. 4 David Ferrer of Spain. Tsonga, who beat Roger Federer in the quarterfinals, wants to give France its first male champion at Roland Garros since Yannick Noah 30 years ago.

The women's semifinals Thursday are No. 1 Serena Williams against No. 5 Sara Errani, and No. 2 Maria Sharapova against No. 4 Victoria Azarenka.



Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns the ball to Germany's Tommy Haas during their quarterfinal match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium Wednesday, June 5, 2013 in Paris.

Associated Press

Sharapova, the defending champion, and Azarenka advanced Wednesday; Williams and Errani won their quarterfinals Tuesday. While Ferrer and Tsonga have only met three times, Djokovic and Nadal will be playing each other for the 35th time — the 10th at a Grand Slam tournament, the fifth at Roland Garros. "We know each other's game really well," Djokovic said.

Nadal holds the edge in every category: 19-15 overall, 6-3 at majors, 4-0 in Paris, part of his 57-1 mark at the clay-court tourna-

ment.

But Djokovic did win their most recent encounter, in the final at Monte Carlo on clay in April.

"That is something that can maybe give me that mental edge when I step onto the court — knowing I already won against him on clay this season. Knowing I can do it, even though not many players in last 10 years have won against him on this surface and he's been the most dominant player in the history of this sport on this surface," Djokovic said. "It's incredible what he does on this

surface."

Just ask Wawrinka.

With the sun out, for a change, and the temperature up to 75 degrees (24 C), Nadal turned in his finest performance of these two weeks, displaying his particular brand of relentless ball-chasing on on-target shotmaking, with only 17 unforced errors — less than one per game.

"Today, I think, his level was really high," said Toni Nadal, Rafael's uncle and coach.

Wawrinka's coach, Magnus Norman, was working with Robin Soderling back in 2009, when Soderling stunned Nadal in the French Open's fourth round. That remains Nadal's only loss in nine appearances in the tournament.

Norman couldn't help Wawrinka pull off the same sort of surprise against Nadal.

"He was too strong," Norman said.

After dropping the first set in each of the first two rounds, Nadal has won 12 sets in a row, looking better each time out.

"Obviously I really am playing better here. I'm happy the way that I played today, especially. Was my best match of the tournament, without any doubt," Nadal said. "I was not happy five days ago."

For the first time since 1948, all four men's quarterfinals at the French Open were decided in straight sets, and there really was little to be surprised about that sort of result when Nadal faces Wawrinka. Nadal has won all 10 matches, and all 22 sets, they've played.

Coming off a five-set victory in the fourth round, Wawrinka insisted fatigue was hardly the real issue Wednesday.

"I was not exhausted," Wawrinka explained, "but I was fighting against Nadal."

Djokovic's turn next.

Against Haas, Djokovic won 40 of the first 43 points he served, and the only moment of real tension came at 5-all in the second-set tiebreaker. □

LA Kings beat Chicago 3-1 in Game 3 of West finals

GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Slava Voynov scored a goal and set up another as the Los Angeles Kings beat Chicago 3-1 in Game 3 of the Western Conference finals on Tuesday, trimming the Blackhawks' series lead to 2-1. Jonathan Quick made 19 saves, Justin Williams also scored and Dwight King added an empty-net goal in the defending Stanley Cup champions' 15th consecutive home victory since March. The Kings have won eight straight home playoff games, dating to last season's title clincher, and they never trailed while ending the top-seeded Blackhawks' five-game postseason winning streak.

Game 4 is Thursday night. Bryan Bickell scored and Corey Crawford stopped 25 shots for the Blackhawks. The Kings had lost five of their previous seven playoff games before getting back to friendly Staples Center and their sellout crowd. Quick also returned to Conn Smythe Trophy form in Game 3, highlighted by a dazzling late save on Bickell, while his low-scoring teammates generated just enough of-



Los Angeles Kings right wing Justin Williams (14) fights with Chicago Blackhawks center Andrew Shaw (65) during the second period of Game 3 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup playoffs Western Conference finals, Tuesday, June 4, 2013 in Los Angeles.

fense to hold off the Blackhawks, who hadn't lost since Game 4 of the second round.

Jeff Carter set up two goals during an inspired effort despite the absence of injured linemate Mike Richards, and Voynov had his fourth multipoint game in a prolific postseason.

The Blackhawks matched their playoff low with just

20 shots, but the Presidents' Trophy winners were one good bounce away from tying the score in the final minutes.

Brandon Saad nearly had an open net after a cross-ice pass from Viktor Stalberg with 5 minutes left, but couldn't collect the puck. Moments later, Keith missed a near-breakaway at the Kings' blue line when

Chicago went offside — and Quick set off a frenzy in the crowd when he improbably stopped Bickell's fine chance late.

The Kings played their second straight game without Richards, their leading postseason scorer heading into Game 3. The veteran center has an apparent concussion after a big hit from Dave Bolland in the

Associated Press

series opener.

Richards' absence opened a lineup spot for promising rookie Tyler Toffoli, who has three points in the last two games. The 21-year-old AHL rookie of the year got the primary assist on Voynov's goal.

After the Kings scored just 11 goals in their last seven games, coach Darryl Sutter shook up his lines while facing the prospect of a three-game deficit in the conference finals. Slumping center Anze Kopitar, who might be playing with an injury, was moved back to the third line, while Jarret Stoll moved up to the Kings' nominal top line between Williams and captain Dustin Brown.

Between the line changes and the desperation necessary in such a situation, the Kings came out with a noticeable edge and improved passing. They took the lead just 3:21 in on a strong sequence started and finished by Williams, who forced Nick Leddy's turnover before scoring on a pass from Voynov.

Williams scored two goals in the Kings' victory over San Jose in Game 7 last week, further burnishing his reputation as an elite postseason performer. □



Boston Red Sox's Jackie Bradley Jr. follows through as Texas Rangers catcher A.J. Pierzynski watches his two-run homer during the second inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston, Tuesday, June 4, 2013.

Associated Press

The Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Jackie Bradley Jr. hit his first career homer and had three RBIs as the Boston Red Sox set season highs for hits and runs in a 17-5 rout of the Texas Rangers on Tuesday.

Stephen Drew, Mike Carp and Jarrod Saltalamacchia also homered for the Red Sox, who scored at least one run in every inning through the first seven and hit for the cycle as a team in the second. The Red Sox

Red Sox crush Rangers 17-5 to move level

finished with 19 hits, eight of them doubles.

It was an abundance of run support for Ryan Dempster (3-6), who ended a streak of five winless starts with his first victory in a month. He allowed three runs on five hits over seven innings.

David Ortiz had three RBIs, driving in one run with a double in the first and then a pair while legging out a rare triple during Boston's six-run second. Carp also drove in three runs as the Red Sox ended a five-game losing streak against the Rangers.

Five of Boston's six hits in

the second were for extra bases and the Red Sox chased Justin Grimm (5-4) after 60 pitches. The Texas rookie allowed eight runs, all earned, in 1 2-3 innings.

TIGERS 10, RAYS 1
DETROIT (AP) — Prince Fielder homered and drove in four runs as Detroit handed Matt Moore his first loss of the season with a victory over Tampa Bay.

Fielder also hit a two-run single that capped a four-run second inning for the Tigers.

Moore (8-1) got only six outs while allowing six runs, seven hits and six walks. He

was pitching on three days' rest after his previous start in Cleveland was limited to one inning because of rain. Anibal Sanchez (6-5) allowed a run and four hits in seven innings. He struck out nine with one walk. Omar Infante homered and had three RBIs for Detroit, which won for the second time in seven games. It was Tampa Bay's second loss in nine.

ANGELS 4, CUBS 3
ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Albert Pujols hit a go-ahead homer in the eighth inning and drove in three runs, leading Los Angeles to a victory over Chicago. □

Spoelstra, Popovich Continued from page 17

To their chagrin, Spo and Pop will be in the spotlight. "It's easier to talk about how they are similar versus how they are dissimilar," said ESPN analyst Jeff Van Gundy, a former NBA coach who is part of the broadcast team for the series that opens Thursday in Miami. "They are both going to the Hall of Fame. They both have tremendous respect from the coaches they coach against, and they both have a level of humility that I believe shows NBA coaching in the most positive light possible." Spoelstra is in the finals for the third straight year and is looking for a second consecutive championship. Popovich is going for his fifth title, the last of the ones currently in his collection coming over James and the Cleveland Cavaliers in 2007, and could join Phil Jackson as the only coaches to win championships in three different decades. So far, only Jackson, Red Auerbach, John Kundla

and Pat Riley - Spoelstra's mentor and boss in Miami - have five rings as a head coach.

"Maybe I don't show it the way I should, but it's pretty special," Popovich said, in a rare moment of near-sheepishness, after his team beat Memphis and won the West title for a fifth time. "I'm just really proud of the group the way they worked all year long to get there, and I'm sure that we've been a team that's probably been written off like they've had their day." Spoelstra took over for Riley five seasons ago, has won nearly twice as many games as he's lost, and has endured a constant circus of distractions ever since the Heat acquired James and Chris Bosh to play alongside Dwyane Wade in 2010. San Antonio hasn't had anywhere near that sort of scrutiny; being in a smaller market helps keep the level of attention down. By now, Spoelstra doesn't even notice what he calls "the noise." Even in the din of an Eastern Conference championship celebration on Monday night - actually during the trophy presentation ceremony - Spoelstra found his mind drifting away from the

grind of facing the Indiana Pacers and onto the next challenge, this duel with the Spurs for the NBA title.

"It's one of those few times in competitive team sports you're not thinking about tomorrow, you're not thinking about the previous games, you're not thinking about what possibly may happen, you're not thinking about the reward. All you're thinking about is the desperation of that moment," Spoelstra said. "That's a great place to live." Spoelstra and Popovich are the last two coaches standing. And in a few days, one of them is going to cradle the Larry O'Brien Trophy once again. That action will be worth much more than any words.

"Erik is still in the phase where he gets more blame for their losses than credit for their wins, but he's going to the Hall of Fame. He's that good," Van Gundy said. "His even-keel demeanor, his humility, I think helps him really get the most out of his best players and you know, it's fun to watch his teams, fun to watch Pop's teams. I just love the grace and humility both teams play with." □

Tony Martin wins 4th stage of Dauphine

PARC DES OISEAUX, France (AP) — German rider Tony Martin won the fourth stage of the Criterium du Dauphine while Christopher Froome dealt a blow to Alberto Contador on Wednesday ahead of the Tour de France this month. Martin completed the 32.5-kilometer time trial from Villars-les-Dombes to Parc des Oiseaux in just under 37 minutes. "It was my goal to win this time trial but I wasn't 100 percent sure that I could do it after being down with stomach problems in the past two days," Martin said. "Fortunately, I recovered on time. "It was my first long time trial since the Tour of Algarve in February. I enjoyed the course, even though I enjoy even more when it's a little bit hillier. I'm happy to give Chris Froome some time because we'll be the

main contenders for the time trials at the Tour de France too."

Rohan Dennis of Australia took the overall lead from David Veilleux of Canada by finishing second, 47 seconds behind Martin.

Froome wound up third, 2:45 ahead of Contador. A two-time Tour de France winner, Contador was also overtaken by Australian rider Richie Porte, who started two minutes behind him.

"It was not a good day for me", Contador told France 3 television. "I didn't have much energy in the legs, but there is still time before my form reaches the top. I hope to be better and better each stage. For the Tour de France, there's still time. I knew that Chris Froome was superior in time trialling."

Froome, the runner-up behind Bradley Wiggins at

last year's Tour, climbed to second place in the overall standings, five seconds behind Dennis.

"Today it was a good exercise and a good test for the form," Froome said. "I had good legs. I don't know what is Alberto's strategy. Maybe he keeps some energy for the mountains."

Thursday's fifth stage is a 139-kilometer trek from Gresy-sur-Aix to Valmorel with four climbs. The weeklong race ends on Sunday. □



San Antonio Spurs' Gregg Popovich responds to a question during an NBA news conference, Wednesday, June 5, 2013 in Miami. The Spurs play the Miami Heat in Game 1 of the NBA Finals Thursday.

Associated Press

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AFTER EARTH
WILL SMITH | JADEN SMITH
MON - THURS 4:40 | 7:00 | 9:20
FRI 4:40 | 7:00 | 9:20 | 11:40
SAT 2:20 | 4:40 | 7:00 | 9:20 | 11:40
SUN & HOL 2:20 | 4:40 | 7:00 | 9:20

THE PURGE
ETHAN HAWKE | LENA HEADEY
MON - THURS 5:30 | 7:35 | 9:40
FRI 5:30 | 7:35 | 9:40 | 11:50
SAT 3:25 | 5:30 | 7:35 | 9:40 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 3:25 | 5:30 | 7:35 | 9:40

ALSO SHOWING!

THE HANGOVER PART III
BRADLEY COOPER | ED HELMS
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON - THURS 4:00 | 6:15 | 8:30
FRI 4:00 | 6:15 | 8:30 | 10:50
SAT 1:50 | 4:00 | 6:15 | 8:30 | 10:50
SUN & HOL 1:50 | 4:00 | 6:15 | 8:30

ON TWO SCREENS

MON - THURS 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35
FRI 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35 | 12:00
SAT 2:35 | 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35 | 12:00
SUN & HOL 2:35 | 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35

NOW YOU SEE ME
JESSE EISENBERG | MARK RUFFALO
MON - THURS 4:00 | 6:30 | 9:00
FRI 4:00 | 6:30 | 9:00 | 11:30
SAT 2:00 | 4:00 | 6:30 | 9:00 | 11:30
SUN & HOL 2:00 | 4:00 | 6:30 | 9:00

FAST & FURIOUS 6
VIN DIESEL | PAUL WALKER
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON - FRI 6:30 | 9:20
SAT, SUN & HOL 3:40 | 6:30 | 9:20

epic
AMANDA SEYFRIED | JASON SUDERKIS
3D VERSION WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON - THURS 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00
FRI 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00 | 11:20
SAT 2:00 | 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00 | 11:20
SUN & HOL 2:00 | 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00

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Obesity surgery study shows pros, cons

LINDSEY TANNER
AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Obesity surgery worked much better at reducing and even reversing diabetes than medication and lifestyle changes in one of the most rigorous studies of its kind. But the researchers and others warn that possible serious complications need to be considered.

The yearlong study indicates that the most common weight-loss surgery, gastric bypass, can effec-

But for the most serious complications — infections, intestinal blockages and bleeding — the rate was 6 percent, slightly higher than in earlier research.

The most dangerous complication occurred in one patient when stomach contents leaked from the surgery site, leading to an overwhelming infection, leg amputation and brain injury. Lead author Dr. Sayeed Ikramuddin, an obesity surgeon at the University of Minnesota, called that

increased risks for heart disease and strokes, and poorly controlled diabetes can damage the kidneys, eyes and blood vessels.

About 160,000 people nationwide undergo various types of obesity surgery each year. Bypass surgery, the type studied, involves stapling the stomach to create a small pouch and attaching it to a lower part of the intestines.

The American Society for Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery says obesity surgery



A recent study showed that obesity surgery worked much better at reducing and even reversing diabetes than medication and lifestyle changes, but researchers warn that possible serious complications need to be considered.

(Handout Photo)

tively treat diabetes in patients with mild to moderate obesity — about 50 to 70 pounds (23 to 32 kilograms) overweight, the researchers reported Tuesday in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Other studies have shown the operation can reverse diabetes in severely obese patients, although sometimes the disease comes back.

About a third of the 60 adults who got bypass surgery in the new study developed serious problems within a year of the operation, though some cases were not clearly linked with the surgery. That rate is similar to what's been seen in previous studies.

case "a fluke."

A journal editorial says such devastating complications are rare, but that "the frequency and severity of complications ... is problematic" in the study and that the best way to treat patients with both obesity and diabetes "remains unknown." A research review in the journal said more long-term evidence on risks and benefits is needed to determine if obesity surgery is an appropriate way to treat diabetes in patients who aren't severely obese — at least 100 pounds (45 kilograms) overweight.

More than 20 million Americans have Type 2 diabetes; most are overweight or obese. Diabetics face

is safe and that the death rate is less than 1 percent, lower than for gallbladder and hip replacement surgery. The study involved 120 patients at five hospitals in New York, Minnesota and Taiwan. All patients got medicines for diabetes, obesity, cholesterol and/or high blood pressure. They all were advised to cut calories and increase physical activity.

Sixty patients also had surgery, and the two groups were compared after one year.

The surgery group lost on average nearly 60 pounds (27 kilograms) and 75 percent lowered blood sugar levels to normal or near normal levels. □

Minnesota tops U.S. state rankings for senior health

JUDITH GRAHAM

© 2013 Kaiser Health News

Hoping to jump-start a discussion about the well-being of America's rapidly-growing aging population, the United Health Foundation has published the first comprehensive state-by-state analysis of senior health across the nation.

Minnesota won the top spot on the list of healthiest states for seniors to live, followed by Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Iowa. Overall rankings in the report are based on a composite score of 34 measures of senior health, with data drawn from more than a dozen government agencies and organizations such as the Dartmouth Atlas Project and the Commonwealth Fund.

The measures reflect a broad view of health as encompassing individual behaviors (for instance, smoking and chronic alcohol consumption), the environments in which older adults live (e.g., the extent of poverty and funding for community supports), public policies (e.g., the availability of geriatricians and the extent of drug coverage for seniors), and clinical care and the delivery of health care services (e.g., the number of preventable hospitalizations and hospital readmissions for seniors). The report is meant to become a benchmark for future efforts to evaluate the health of the nation's fastest growing demographic group — adults 65 and older. Currently, 40.3 million people fall in this category; that number is set to soar to 88.5 million by 2050.

"I think it will be a useful tool for states to examine their preparedness and progress in providing needed services to our growing older population," said James Firman, president of the National Council on Aging.

Several findings are sobering, although not altogether new.

Notably, only 38.4 percent of older adults rated their health as "very good or

excellent" in 2011. One in every five seniors said they did not get sufficient social and emotional support, putting them at risk of isolation and loneliness, conditions known to have an adverse impact on older adults' health.

Meanwhile, obesity is on the rise in older adults and now affects 25.3 percent of seniors, while physical inactivity is common, with 30.3 percent of seniors in fair or better health saying they failed to get any kind of exercise in the past month.

About one of every seven older adults faces the threat of hunger; almost one in eight in nursing homes could live in the community if better community supports were available.

"We hope this report will be a call to action for people and that people will use the data to identify challenges in their states and, even more important, mobilize the full range of local resources and assets to address these challenges," said Dr. Reed Tuckson, senior advisor to United Health Foundation.

"Government cannot do this alone; that is impossible," he continued. "We need businesses, the philanthropic sector, community-based organizations, families and individuals to all work together."

Recognizing that solutions will differ in various states, the report steers clear of recommending specific actions but invites readers to share information about innovative programs that will be posted on America's Health Rankings web site.

Dr. Kenneth Covinsky, a geriatrician and professor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, said he would have liked more information about older adults' functional status — the extent to which they can accomplish activities of daily living like bathing, dressing, paying bills or cooking a meal — and the extent to which their needs are addressed once disability sets in. □

U.S. officials to meet over cellphone thefts

TERRY COLLINS
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Top law enforcement officials from San Francisco and New York plan to meet with some of the largest U.S. smartphone makers next week to help thwart the rise in cellphone thefts and robberies.

San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon and New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman announced Wednesday that their meeting scheduled to take place in New York City on June 13 will be dubbed a "Smartphone Summit."

Gascon and Schneiderman said they plan to meet with representatives from Apple Inc., Google Inc., Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. and Microsoft Corp. and urge them to create new technology to permanently and quickly disable stolen smartphones, making them worthless to thieves.

In San Francisco, where more than half all robberies

involve a cellphone, Gascon has called on the companies to create new technology such as a "kill switch" to render phones useless. His office cites a 27-year old tourist who suffered severe knife wounds to his face and throat two weeks ago after being robbed by two men over his iPhone.

In New York, Schneiderman said there was a 40 percent spike in cellphone thefts last year. Authorities there have coined the thefts of the popular iPhone and other Apple-related products as "Apple-picking."

"With 1.6 million Americans falling victim to smartphone theft in 2012, this has become a national epidemic," Gascón said in a statement. "Unlike other types of crimes, smartphone theft can be eradicated with a simple technological solution."

Nearly 175 million cellphones — mostly smartphones — have been sold in the U.S. in the past year and account for \$69

billion in sales, according to IDC, a Massachusetts-based research firm.

And now almost one 1 of 3 robberies nationwide involves the theft of a mobile phone, reports the Federal Communications Commission, which is coordinating formation this fall of a highly anticipated national database system to track cellphones reported stolen.

Schneiderman said a recent study found that lost and stolen cellphones cost consumers over \$30 billion, last year.

"The theft of handheld devices is the fastest-growing street crime, and increasingly, incidents are turning violent," Schneiderman said in a statement. "It's time for manufacturers to be as innovative in solving this problem as they have been in designing devices that have reshaped how we live."

Late last month, Gascon — in a letter to the Major



A woman uses a cellphone in downtown San Francisco Wednesday, June 5, 2013. San Francisco's district attorney and New York's attorney general say they will meet with major cell phone manufacturers, as they push the industry to do more to protect consumers from violent street crimes connected to cell phone thefts.

Associated Press

Cities Chiefs Association, a coalition of police chiefs from across the country — urged them to press for kill switches.

"Despite the growing threat to public safety, cell-phone manufacturers and carriers continue to look the other way," Gascón wrote. "It's time that corporations take social responsibility and do their part to end the victimization of hundreds of thousands of Americans."

In response, the police chiefs association followed suit and sent a letter on Monday to FCC Chairman

Julius Genachowski. While commending the FCC and the CTIA wireless provider trade association on the national stolen phone database, they suggested that kill switch technology is "the only effective way" to go.

"By rendering phones completely useless, an FCC mandate for kill-switch technology will drastically reduce this major crime problem," Philadelphia Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey, president of the chiefs' association wrote. □

Casinos ban gamblers from using Google Glass

WAYNE PARRY
Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (AP) — U.S. casinos are forbidding gamblers from wearing Google Glass, the tiny eyeglasses-mounted device capable of shooting photos, filming video and surfing the Internet.

Regulators say the gadgets could be used to cheat at card games.

The New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement issued a directive on Monday ordering Atlantic City's 12 casinos to bar casino patrons from using the device. The directive was first reported by The Press of Atlantic City.

Similar bans are in place at casinos in Las Vegas and Ohio, among other places. "If these eyeglasses were worn during a poker game, they could be used to broadcast a patron's

hand to a confederate or otherwise be used in a collusive manner," David Rebeck, the division's director wrote in a memo to the casinos.

That type of use would constitute a crime in New Jersey. But it would be difficult to establish beyond a reasonable doubt that the glasses were actually being used to cheat, Rebeck wrote. For that and other reasons, he decided to ban the glasses on the casino floor and anywhere else gambling is taking place.

"Even if the glasses had not been used for cheating ... their presence at a gaming table would lead to the perception that something untoward could be occurring, thereby undermining public confidence in the integrity

of gaming," he wrote in the directive.

In a statement issued Wednesday, Google said,



Sarah Hill, a Google Glass contest winner, of Columbia, Mo., reacts while trying out her device Wednesday, May 29, 2013, in New York.

Associated Press

"We are thinking very carefully about how we design Glass because new technology always raises new issues." It said its "Glass Explorer" pilot

program "will ensure that our users become active participants in shaping the future of this technology."

The New Jersey casinos must ask anyone wearing the glasses to remove them, and can kick out any customer who refuses. The prohibition against

photography or video filming in the casinos is not unique to Google Glass. New Jersey regulators require five days' advance notice — and explicit approval from the gaming enforcement division — for any type of photos or videos to be shot on the casino floor, and Las Vegas has similar restrictions. But as a new technology, the glasses are catching the attention of regulators, who are updating their rules to keep pace.

In Las Vegas, Caesars Entertainment and MGM Resorts have directed their security workers to ask patrons to remove the devices before beginning to gamble.

Caesars spokesman Gary Thompson said Las Vegas guests will need to take off their glasses when they hit the tables. □

Weak signals on economy send stocks plunging

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A series of weak economic reports sent the stock market plunging to its lowest level in a month on Wednesday. Companies like miners, banks and chemical makers, whose fortunes are most closely tied to the prospects for growth, led the market lower. That's a sign investors are becoming less confident in the U.S. economy.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 217 points and finished at 14,960, a drop of 1.4 percent. It's the first close below 15,000 since May 6 and the biggest decline in seven weeks. Intel fell the most in the Dow.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index ended down 22.48 points, or 1.4 percent, at 1,608.90. The index is 3 percent below its record close

of 1,669 reached May 21. It's still up 12.8 percent this year.

In other trading, the Nasdaq composite dropped 43.78 points, or 1.3 percent, to 3,401.48. The index closed at its lowest level in a month.

Stocks started lower and declined steadily throughout the day. After rising every month this year and climbing to record levels this spring, some investors said a significant pullback was overdue.

"The rally is tired and people are taking some profits," said Brad Reynolds, at investment advisor LJRP.

Investors were also unnerved by a sharp 11.5 percent drop in mortgage applications last week. That's a disappointment because the rebound in housing has been one of the key factors supporting the stock mar-

ket's record-breaking rally this year.

Housing stocks slumped in response. D.R. Horton dropped 27 cents, or 1.2 percent, to \$22.65. Beazer Homes fell 60 cents to \$18.78, a decline of 3.1 percent.

The fall in applications came as mortgage rates rose the highest point since April 2012. The increase is being driven by higher yields in the bond market. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note climbed as high as 2.2 percent last week, the highest in more than two years.

There was also disappointing news on hiring, another one of the key supports for the market's rally this year.

A measure of employment in the service sector fell to the lowest level since last July. That's a troubling sign because service compa-

nies, a broad category that includes entertainment, transportation and health care, have been the main source of job gains in the past several months.

Earlier Wednesday payroll provider ADP said U.S. businesses added just 135,000 jobs in May, the second straight month of weak gains. The increases are much lower than those reported over the winter, which averaged more than 200,000 a month from November through February.

The stock market's recent bout of volatility began May 22 as traders parsed comments from Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and minutes from the last meeting of the Fed's policy committee for clues about when the bank may slow its stimulus program. □

Trustee leaving as MF Global is nearly finished

C. REXRODE

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Louis Freeh, the trustee charged with getting MF Global creditors their money back, has stepped down as the company's long bankruptcy nears an end. The former FBI director announced late Tuesday that he would hand over trustee responsibilities to a three-person board to finish winding down the financial firm. MF Global Holdings Ltd.'s bankruptcy plan, which lays out how money will be returned to creditors and was approved by a judge in April, also took effect Tuesday.

The new board is composed of Daniel Ehrmann of Alvarez & Marsal, Rich Katz of Torque Point Advisors and Nader Tavakoli of investment firm EagleRock Capital Management. Ehrmann is a turnaround specialist who has also worked on winding down Lehman Brothers. Katz previously ran a desk at Goldman Sachs that invested in companies going through bankruptcy, lawsuits or shareholder disputes.

MF Global Holdings imploded in October 2011, after making big bets on bonds issued by European countries that later turned sour. Freeh, as bankruptcy trustee, has been trying to recover as much money as possible for creditors. So far, Freeh has overseen the "eventual" return of more than \$1 billion to creditors of MF Global Holdings, though a news release Tuesday didn't say how much creditors have already received.

Freeh also sued ex-CEO Jon Corzine and other top executives, blaming them for the company's collapse, though Corzine's representatives have vehemently denied the accusation. Corzine, who had been co-chairman of Goldman Sachs as well as a former Democratic U.S. senator and governor of New Jersey, stepped down as MF Global CEO in November 2011. □

Fed survey: Growth improves throughout US

Since then investors have become increasingly sensitive to economic reports as they try to anticipate when the Fed will pull back on its \$85 billion in monthly bond purchases. That program, which is intended to keep interest rates low and encourage lending, has supported markets this year. On some days stocks have rallied after poor economic reports led traders to anticipate that the Fed would keep the stimulus going.

On Wednesday, though, the stock market's decline was unambiguous.

Intel fell the most in the Dow, dropping 66 cents, or 2.6 percent, to \$24.70. Aluminum maker Alcoa was close behind with a decline of 2.2 percent, or 18 cents, to \$8.20. All 30 members of the index dropped.

As traders sold stocks, the moved money into the haven of U.S. government bonds. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.09 percent from 2.15 percent late Tuesday.

U.S. stocks joined a global rout Wednesday that began overnight in Asia. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index plunged after

investors were disappointed at the lack of detail in a keynote speech on the economy from Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The Nikkei fell 3.8 percent

"Everywhere is red," said Mark Schwartz, chief market strategist, at Lightspeed Financial. "It's just a sea of red and we're following in line."

pan. Some market watchers drew a parallel with the U.S., where central bank stimulus has also been pushing stock prices higher. "I'm very concerned about



Workers are seen at the construction site of a new housing complex, in Trenton, N.J. A Federal Reserve survey says economic growth increased throughout the United States from April through mid-May, fueled by home construction, consumer spending and steady hiring.

(AP Photo/Mel Evans)

to 13,014.

European stock markets also fell. Indexes fell 1.9 percent in France, 1.2 percent in Germany and 2.1 percent in Britain.

The Nikkei has fallen 20 percent from its peak in mid-May, after soaring at the start of the year thanks to aggressive stimulus measures from the Bank of Ja-

what's going on in Japan," said Doug Cote, chief market strategist at ING. "Some people might be scratching their head and saying that it could happen to us."

ISM Survey: US service firms grow at faster pace

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. service firms grew at a faster pace in May, driven by a jump in new orders. But a measure of hiring showed companies added fewer jobs.

The Institute for Supply Management said Wednesday that its index of service-sector growth rose to 53.7 from 53.1 in April. Any reading above 50 indicates expansion. Last month's figure is below the 12-month average of 54.4.

A measure of employment

fell to 50.1 from 52, the lowest since last July. Service firms have been the main source of job gains in the past several months. Manufacturers have cut back sharply on hiring this year. The new orders index rose last month, and a gauge of sales also increased.

Pierre Ellis, an economist at Decision Economics, said the slowdown in hiring could mean that "managers are not too confident that the business improvement will last." Still, hiring may rebound if sales and orders remain healthy, Ellis

added.

The survey measures growth at businesses that employ about 90 percent of the U.S. workforce, ranging from construction companies and health care firms to retail businesses and restaurants.

Growth in the service industry depends largely on consumers, whose spending drives roughly 70 percent of economic activity. A steady recovery in housing and stronger consumer spending helped push the index higher earlier this year.

But Americans spent less in April as their income failed to grow. That signaled the economy may be slowing this spring.

The survey showed that 13 industries reported growth last month, led by hotels and restaurants, transportation and warehousing, and arts and entertainment. Five said business contracted, including mining, health care and real estate. Most economists say higher Social Security taxes and steep cuts in government spending are dragging on growth.

They forecast the economy will expand at around a 2 percent annual rate in the April-June quarter, down from 2.4 percent in the first three months of the year.

Still, in May consumers grew more confident, which suggests spending could rebound later this year. Measures of consumer confidence reached five year highs last month, as Americans grew more optimistic that the job market is healing.

And other trends may offset some of the impact of the taxes this year. □

Treasury plans to sell 30 million shares of GM stock

TOM KRISHER

AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — The U.S. government plans to sell another 30 million shares of General Motors stock in a public offering on Thursday as it speeds up efforts to divest itself from a stake in the auto giant that it got in a bailout four years ago. The Treasury Department will set the price for the shares after the markets close on Thursday, with the sale taking place shortly thereafter.

A United Auto Workers retiree health care trust fund will join the sale and sell 20 million shares, pushing the size of the offering to 50 million shares.

General Motors Co. stock fell 76 cents, or 2.2 percent, to \$34.20 in Wednesday afternoon trading, but it has

seen huge growth recently. The stock hit \$35.49 on Tuesday, the highest point since December of 2010, according to FactSet. Shares are up about 19 percent since the beginning of the year.

The public offering will help accelerate the government's exit from owning GM stock, which it got in exchange for a \$49.5 billion bailout in 2008 and 2009. Late last year the government still owned 500 million shares of the automaker, but GM bought 200 million shares for \$5.5 billion in December, and the Treasury pledged to gradually sell its remaining stake by early next year.

GM has longed for the government to exit partial ownership of the company, hoping to shed the de-

risive nickname "Government Motors," as well as attract customers who have shunned GM cars because it took government money.

GM nearly ran out of cash late in 2008 and needed the government cash to make it through bankruptcy protection. While under

government ownership, the company also falls under executive pay caps that it says hinder recruiting of top talent. □



The logo for General Motors decorates the entrance to an auto manufacturing facility in Roswell, Ga. The U.S. government is taking advantage of the recent run-up in General Motors stock to sell off another 30 million shares in the auto giant that it acquired in a bailout, according to the Treasury Department, Wednesday, June 5, 2013.

(AP Photo/David Goldman)

US considers tougher rules for money funds

MARCY GORDON

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Investors could lose principal from money market investment funds that perform poorly under regulations proposed Wednesday by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

But the change would affect mainly institutional rather than individual investors.

The SEC voted 5-0 to advance the plan, which would allow shares of some money-market funds to

"float", instead of having a fixed value of \$1 per share. The proposal failed to gain support last year but has since won the backing of a panel of regulators that include Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke.

The agency also proposed new fees on withdrawals from funds if their assets that can be readily converted into cash fall below a certain level. Both changes are intended to better inform investors and protect the industry from risks that surfaced at the height of

the 2008 financial crisis.

The public has 90 days to comment on the proposals. At some later point, the agency would finalize the rules or settle on a modified version of them.

Allowing values to float would make some money funds more like bonds, whose principal changes with increases or decreases in interest rates. That's a fundamental shift because it means investors could lose principal if the value falls below \$1.

Proponents say it is neces-

sary change because it would show money funds, while safer than stocks and many other investments, still carry some level of risk. They say more awareness of the risk would reduce the potential for runs on money funds.

The SEC proposal would limit the floating-value requirement to those money-market funds known as "prime."

Prime funds attract mainly big institutional investors as opposed to retail customers and are considered

more risk-prone because they invest in short-term corporate debt.

They represent roughly half of the total \$2.9 trillion assets held by all money-market mutual funds.

Exempt from the floating-value requirement would be money-market funds that hold at least 80 percent of their assets in cash or government securities, and retail funds — those limiting an investor's withdrawals to a maximum of \$1 million per business day. □

Conceptis Sudoku

6/03

Saturday's puzzle answer	7	1	3	9	4	8	2	5	6
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	6	7	5	2	8	9	4	3	1

1 Grocery sacks
5 Bit of parsley
10 Went down
smoothly
14 Capable
15 Without allies
16 ___ list; chores
written down
17 Harness strap
18 Defenseless;
open to attack
20 Koch & Asner
21 Bouquet holder
22 Follows orders
23 Part of the leg
25 Baseball's ___
Ripken Jr.
26 Adhere; cling
28 Cowboy
competitions
31 Reddish dye
32 Eyeglasses, for
short
34 Brewer's tub
36 Gung-ho
37 ___-ano; small

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Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

6/3/13

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- 38 One of Jacob's
12 sons

39 Bill
denomination

40 Cut of beef
member; abbr.

41 Showed
courage

42 Self-importance

44 Finicky

45 "___ Maria"
hotel chain

46 Diagram

47 Rub so much
as to make raw

50 Owl's comment

51 "You ___ what
you eat"

54 Public reading

57 Dating couple
gossiped about

58 ___ and crafts

59 Soup server

60 Paper quantity

61 Word of mild
surprise

62 Newspaper
industry

63 Catch sight of

DOWN

1 Exposed; nude

2 Not up yet

3 Shining

4 Upper House
member; abbr.

5 Fred or Ben

6 Luxurious

7 Acting part

8 Holiday ___;
hotel chain

9 "___ whiz!"

10 Unchanging

11 Part of the ear

12 In a lazy way

13 Stags' mates

19 Highways

21 Paper towel
brand

24 ___ over; deliver

25 Imogene ___

26 Conversation

27 Embankment

28 Nap

29 Exaggerates

30 Rescues

32 Pillow cover

33 Faux ___; social
blunder

35 Shipshape

37 Suffer defeat

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6/3/13

48 Long sandwich

49 Goes on stage

50 Conceal

52 Gather crops

53 TV show award

55 Mont Blanc or
the Matterhorn

56 Paver's goo

57 Wrath

The Gossip Just Won't Stop

MARY BILLARD
© 2013 New York Times
Around 10:30 p.m. last Wednesday, 12 days after his 29-year tenure as the gossip columnist for The Village Voice was abruptly ended by the newspaper's owner, Michael Musto was in a TriBeCa production studio, dressed in a bedazzled tuxedo jacket, getting ready for his first post-Voice job. Musto was about to be a bartender. But this was not just any bartending job. His ouster had been lamented by much of the New York media ("The villagevoice

the air, Cohen explained how Musto, 57, ended up as the evening's mixologist. "When I heard what happened, I said to the booker, 'I want him on as soon as possible,'" Cohen said. "He is the kind of 'legends of New York' we embrace." When the cameras rolled, Cohen wasted no time in expressing his opinion. "I was shocked, shocked last week when The Village Voice laid off the entire reason for reading their newspaper, gossip columnist Michael Musto," he told his audience.

Musto Matters") and by the stunning end to his column, La Dolce Musto, after nearly three decades because of cutbacks at the weekly. "It was horrifying," he said. "That paper was my heart and soul." But bartending was not his only offer. Musto said he was starting a weekly question-and-answer interview column for Gawker ("with a scandal celebrity or someone promoting something, or someone who has made a mark on the culture") and a column named "Musto! The Musical!" on Out.com, the first installment of which appeared on June 3.

"The Out column will be similar to my Voice column," he said. "A breathless romp through all the scenes that make New York tick."

Musto also appears on the New York television show "Theater Talk," where he will be doing a post-mortem on the Tony Awards on Sunday. And there had been an appearance on "Smash," an NBC series that was just canceled. "Did you see me on the last episode?" Musto asked. "I was adorable." Born in Brooklyn, he started as a freelancer while at Columbia University and never looked back. "I'm married to my job," he said. "I don't even have a potted plant to take care of. It's a roller coaster of fun, work, fun, work. I get to go to parties, to movie premieres, to fashion shows and write whatever I want."

Musto describes himself as a cultural anthropologist, a social worker and a gossip columnist, a title that he noted was often shunned by others.

La Dolce Musto's trademark blind items became popular guessing games among Voice readers ("I used to joke that if you guessed Courtney Love, you were usually right," he said). And, proving there is no such thing as bad publicity, nightclub denizens lobbied to be included in the "Ten Biggest Nightmares in New York."

"I'm primarily a humorist," he said. "I don't have investigative skills. □



Andy Cohen, left, chats with Michael Musto on the set of Bravo's "Watch What Happens Live" in New York, May 29, 2013. Musto, the former gossip columnist for The Village Voice, appeared as a guest bartender on the show after his 29-year tenure at the paper was abruptly ended. (Tina Fineberg/The New York Times)

firing mikeymusto amounts to villagevoice firing itself: auto-da-fé," tweeted The New Yorker's Philip Gourevitch), and the outrage had begun to open some surprising doors. Musto would soon be mixing drinks for the actors Ethan Hawke and Aaron Tveit on Andy Cohen's talk show on Bravo, "Watch What Happens Live." The role had previously been filled by Broadway actors, reality TV stars, an Olympic athlete and the guy from that salad dressing commercial whose shirt keeps coming off. "You're the king," Cohen enthusiastically told Musto. "You're very kind," a seemingly touched Musto responded. Before the show went on

"Wait. You were shocked?" asked Musto, the camera catching a look a mock surprise as the applause died down. "And first of all, I got this bartending job." Earlier, in the green room getting ready to go on, Musto said he was overwhelmed by the coverage of his departure (one sample, from The Daily Beast: "The Village Voice Was Crazy to Fire Him: 5 Reasons Why Michael

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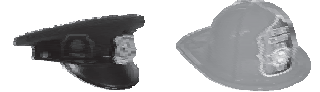
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Meet distant cousin: Tiny hyperactive primate

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — New fossil evidence of the earliest complete skeleton of an ancient primate suggests it was a hyperactive, wide-eyed creature so small you could hold a couple of them in your hand — if only they would stay still long enough.

The 55 million-year-old fossil dug up in central China is one of our first primate relatives and it gives scientists a better understanding of the complex evolution that eventually led to humans. This tiny monkey-like creature weighed an ounce (28 grams) or less and was not a direct ancestor. Because it is so far back on the family tree it offers the best clues yet of what our earliest direct relatives would have been like at that time, according to a study published Wednesday in the journal *Nature*.

"It's a close cousin in fact," said study author Christopher Beard, curator at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh. He said it is "the closest thing we have to an ancestor of humans" so long ago.

Primate is the order of life that includes humans along with apes, monkeys,



This undated handout artist rendering provided by Xijun Ni, Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, Chinese Academy of Sciences shows a reconstruction of Archicebus achilles in its natural habitat of trees.

and lemurs. Humans are set apart from other mammals because of our grasping five fingers and toes, nails, and forward-facing eyes. And this new species called *Archicebus achilles* fits right in, Beard said.

Among primates there are three suborders: anthropoids which include apes, monkeys and us;

and two other suborders that include lemurs and the lesser known tarsiers. This new species is in the same grouping as tarsiers, but close to the offshoot branch in the family tree where humans come from. The fossil includes anthropoid-like features.

"It's a cute little thing; it's ridiculously little," Beard

said. "That's one of the more important scientific aspects of the whole story."

With a trunk only 2.8 inches (71 millimeters) long, the furry creature was about as small as you can get and still be a mammal, Beard said. Just like elephants and horses, the farther back in time you get

for some of today's bigger mammals, the smaller they get, Beard said.

Because it was so small and warm-blooded it had to eat bugs and move constantly to keep from losing internal heat, Beard said.

That means, Beard said, our earliest primate relatives were "very frenetic creatures, anxious, highly caffeinated animals running around looking for their next meal." They lived in a tree-lined area near a Chinese lake, swinging around trees in a hotter climate, Beard said.

Outside experts praised the study as significant, confirming what some thought about our primate ancestors.

Rick Potts, director of the human origins program at the Smithsonian Institution, said this fossil's mix of different features illustrate the fascinating and crucial changes that occur around major evolutionary branch points in our family tree.

The study also bolstered another theory that early primates first developed in Asia, even though humans evolved nearly 50 million years later in Africa, Beard said. □

NASA set to launch latest satellite to study sun

LOS ANGELES (AP) — NASA is preparing to launch its latest sun-monitoring satellite on a mission to improve space weather prediction. The Iris satellite will observe a little-studied region of the sun that emits ultraviolet light.

Scientists hope examining the sun's lower atmosphere would help them learn more about how this region drives solar wind

and powers the corona, the sun's outer atmosphere seen during eclipses.

Iris carries a UV telescope that can take high-resolution images every few seconds. It's scheduled to be launched on June 26 from the Vandenberg Air Force Base on California's central coast. Once in orbit, it will circle about 400 miles (650 kilometers) above the Earth. □

This undated image provided by NASA shows technicians preparing at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. for the launch of NASA's latest satellite, Interface Region Imaging Spectrograph (IRIS), that will study the sun.

Associated Press



Attorney: Paris Jackson hospitalized but OK

ANTHONY MCCARTNEY
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The 15-year-old daughter of Michael Jackson is physically fine after being taken to a hospital early Wednesday, an attorney for Jackson's mother said.

Perry Sanders Jr. wrote in a statement to The Associated Press that Paris Jackson is getting appropriate medical attention and the family is seeking privacy.

"Being a sensitive 15 year old is difficult no matter who you are," he wrote. "It is especially difficult when you lose the person closest to you. Paris is physically fine and is getting appropriate medical attention. Please respect her privacy and the family's privacy."

Sanders declined further comment on Paris' condition or the circumstances that led to her hospitalization.

Fire and sheriff's officials confirmed they transported someone from a home in Paris' suburban Calabasas neighborhood for a possible overdose but did not release any identifying information or additional details.

Paris frequently posts messages about her life on Twitter, where she has more than a million followers.

One of her most recent posts was from the Beatles' song "Yesterday": "yesterday, all my troubles seemed so far away now it looks as though they're here to stay." Another post included the question, "I wonder why tears are salty?"

A 20-minute video of the teen applying makeup was posted to YouTube last week. Paris says on Twitter she doesn't know how the video, in which she repeatedly asserts, "I am so weird," ended up on the site.

"I hope you guys liked it tho and didn't think i'm too crazy," she wrote. "i get weird when i'm not around people lol."

Katherine Jackson shares guardianship of her son's three children — Paris and her brothers Prince, 16, and Blanket, 11 — with the singer's nephew, TJ Jackson.

Messages left for TJ Jackson's attorney were not immediately returned.

"We appreciate everyone's thoughts for Paris at this time and their respect for the family's privacy," said a statement from Eric George, an attorney for Debbie Rowe, Paris' biological mother.

Paris' uncles Tito, Marlon and Jackie echoed that

sentiment in their statement Wednesday: "Thank you for the outpouring of concern and support for Paris — she is safe and doing fine. We truly appreciate you respecting our family's privacy at this time."

Michael Jackson kept his children out of the spotlight during his lifetime. After his death from an overdose of the anesthetic propofol in June 2009, the children took on a more public life, beginning with their father's memorial service, which included Paris' tearful goodbye to her father. She has expressed interest in starting a singing career, has plans to star in a movie, and has been featured in different magazines. Her older brother Prince was a guest correspondent earlier this year for "Entertainment Tonight."

In recent months, she has reconnected with Rowe, with whom she has had little contact for most of her life. The children are listed as plaintiffs in a lawsuit filed by their grandmother against concert giant AEG Live LLC, who she claims is responsible for her son's death. Katherine Jackson's lawsuit claims AEG failed to properly investigate the doctor convicted of causing the singer's death, and



This Jan. 26, 2012 file photo shows Paris Jackson, daughter of the late pop icon Michael Jackson, during the hand and footprint ceremony honoring her father at Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles. Associated Press

pushed the superstar to rehearse and perform a planned series of 50 comeback shows titled "This Is It." Paris and Prince are listed as potential witnesses in the case, which is in its sixth week of trial.

Katherine Jackson's trial attorney, Brian Panish, declined comment Wednesday morning on Paris Jackson's condition. Her hospitalization came hours after AEG Live's CEO Randy Phillips told a jury that he believed the lawsuit was a shakedown and extortion attempt and that the com-

pany should not be held responsible for Michael Jackson's death.

Sanders said outside court Wednesday there is "no basis that there is anything related to potential testimony for anything that was going on in her (Paris') life." "Paris is a good strong person, but she's a sensitive person," Sanders said. "It's no secret how incredibly close Paris was with her father."

He said Katherine Jackson is "naturally concerned" about her granddaughter. □

Keith Olbermann to host baseball studio show

NEW YORK (AP) — Keith Olbermann is getting back into broadcasting to host TBS's postseason baseball studio show, staying away from politics for the moment. Turner Sports said Wednesday that Olbermann will team with Hall of Fame pitcher Dennis Eckersley on its studio show during the baseball playoffs this October. It's a familiar role and corporate home for Olbermann, who hosted baseball postseason shows on NBC and Fox in the late 1990s and began his on-air career as a sports reporter for CNN, another

Turner network.

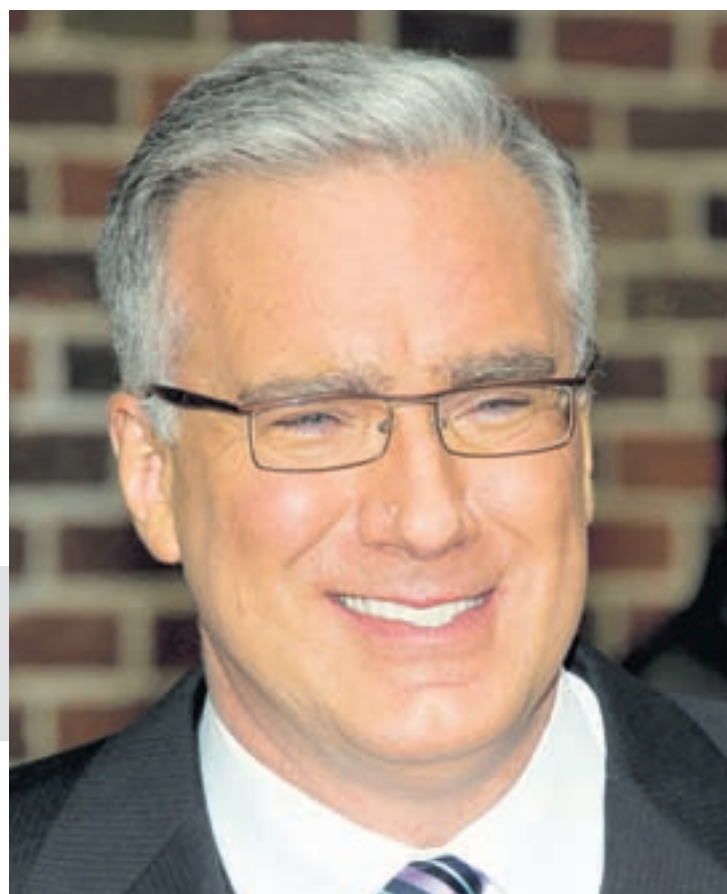
Olbermann's last two politically oriented jobs ended poorly. He quit abruptly in January 2011 after eight years as a prime-time host at MSNBC, and his later tenure at Current TV lasted a year before Olbermann was removed from the air and responded with a lawsuit, settled out of court.

He's generally acknowledged to be a smart and witty broadcaster, while off-screen battles with executives have kept him jumping to different jobs.

Turner also announced that Cal Ripken Jr. will leave the

studio to join a team of Ernie Johnson and Ron Darling broadcasting baseball division series and the National League Championship Series. □

In this Oct. 24, 2011 file photo, political pundit Keith Olbermann leaves a taping of the "Late Show with David Letterman," in New York.



Now dads, Vaughn and Wilson bond with kids on set

SANDY COHEN

AP Entertainment Writer
MOUNTAIN VIEW, California (AP) — Vince Vaughn and Owen Wilson have gone from womanizing “Wedding Crashers” to doting dads who bring their kids to work.

The two actors reunite on screen for the first time since 2005 in “The Internship,” opening Friday. The two star as recently fired salesmen who seek to reinvent themselves by winning internships at Google, bringing the same kooky chemistry that made “Wedding Crashers” a surprise smash. That chemistry was on display during a recent visit to Google’s Northern Cali-

fornia headquarters. Past the beach-volleyball court and rows of red-and-green bikes, in a conference room with a coffee table shaped like California, Vaughn, 43, and Wilson, 44, can’t help but crack each other up.

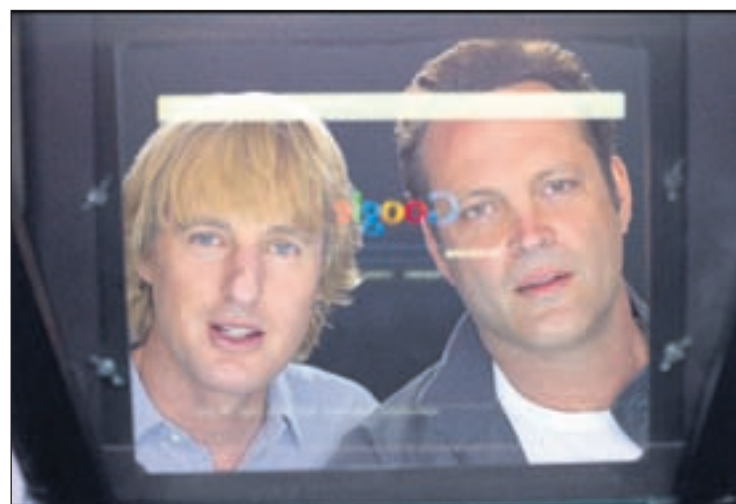
Asked if their off-screen friendship fuels their comedy on screen, Wilson joked that Vaughn tried to avoid him on set.

“A lot of times I’d go up to talk to Vince and I’d want to kind of catch up and shoot the breeze, and maybe crack some jokes, and he was always just buried in his computer,” Wilson said. “And then one time I noticed that it wasn’t turned on, it was just when I was

coming up. So I didn’t know what to make of that.”

“It’s called I’m looking for some downtime, I don’t need to hear the same story again, you know what I mean?” Vaughn replied without missing a beat. “That’s the thing with Owen that I love is his stories will start always in different ways, but the endings are consistent, which is: That’s why I win. So no matter where the stories start, I never get nervous because the last page is always: That’s why I win.”

Both men felt like winners when their toddler children visited the set during filming last year.



This film publicity image released by 20th Century Fox shows Owen Wilson, left, and Vince Vaughn in a scene from “The Internship.”

Associated Press

“It did kind of give you a good feeling just seeing the kids running around,” Wilson recalled.

Wilson’s son and Vaughn’s daughter are close in age, and Vaughn has another baby on the way. But the actors disagree on the best

parenting approach.

“Owen is like it’s important to tell the kid they’re great and give them confidence,” Vaughn said, “where I feel like you throw them in the pool and it’s going to go one way or the other.” □

Wayne Newton moving out of Las Vegas estate

KEN RITTER

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — With a bitter legal fight nearly over, “Mr. Las Vegas” Wayne Newton is moving from his estate of 45 years, “Casa de Shenandoah,” to another mansion nearby.

The downsizing from a 40-plus acres (16-plus hectares) spread to a \$3 million mansion and several adjacent properties is taking place this week, the crooner’s sister-in-law, Tricia McCrone, and Newton publicist Kevin Sasaki said Wednesday.

“There’s room for all his animals — the peacocks, the horses, and Charlie the penguin,” McCrone said of the properties that she said include a main mansion, a guest house and four other homes on a total of about 20 acres.

The main house is a two-story structure on a little more than 2 acres (less than a hectare) with three bedrooms, 6½ bathrooms, a swimming pool, spa and three fireplaces covering more than 9,000 square feet (836 square meters). It used to belong to Norbert Aleman, producer of the racy “Crazy Girls” topless show and the long-running



In this Friday, Nov. 12, 2010, file photo Wayne Newton’s home is framed at the end of a tree-lined lane on a 52-acre estate in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

“La Cage” female impersonators review in Las Vegas.

An overall purchase price wasn’t disclosed.

The new spread will be called “The Shenandoah,” Newton’s wife, Kathleen McCrone Newton, told The Associated Press.

The relocation comes with a federal bankruptcy judge in Las Vegas due to sign off June 21 on a series of agreements filed under

seal last month to finalize a reorganization involving a partnership that bought Newton’s property in June 2010 for \$19.5 million.

Newton had creditors at his door at the time.

Sheriff’s deputies had tried in February 2010 to collect a \$500,000 court judgment stemming from back pay owed to a former pilot, and billionaire Bruton Smith, chairman of NASCAR track owner Speedway Motors-

ports Inc., was seeking to seize Newton’s property as repayment of a \$3.35 million loan.

As recently as March, the 71-year-old Newton and his wife maintained that they would remain in their beloved home.

Now the property owner, CSD LLC, will keep the walled “Casa de Shenandoah” compound.

It wasn’t immediately clear Wednesday if the entity still

has plans to develop it into a “Graceland West” attraction commemorating Newton’s career.

However, in a sign that the plan may be scuttled, documents show that 12 commercial tour buses that had been purchased to shuttle visitors several miles from the Las Vegas Strip to the Newton museum have been repossessed.

The bitter fight over the Newton estate was complicated by the interlocking ownership but competing interests of the various parties.

Wayne and Kathleen Newton, through a business entity called Sacred Land LLC, owned 20 percent of their bankrupt landlord, CSD LLC. Lacy and Dorothy Harber of Texas, through DLH LLC, owned 70 percent of the property ownership entity. CSD Management LLC, made up of project manager Steven Kennedy and his partner, Geneva Clark, had a 10 percent stake.

The agreements filed in May settled several state and federal lawsuits in which the Newtons and the property owners had traded allegations of fraud, conspiracy, breach of contract, and even sexual harassment. □

The Meanest Season



FRANK BRUNI
© 2013 New York Times

If my body is a buffet, summer is the server who rips the metal covers off the roast beef and the scalloped potatoes so that the hordes can start feeding. And feed they do, mosquitoes and ants and for all I know spiders. (I'm never sure which tiny glutton has made off with the most of me.)

A bite on my ankle recently grew so large and Vesuvian that I had to go to the dermatologist to make sure it wasn't deadly.

"What's this?" she gasped, and the scariest part was that she was looking at something else, on my back. There she discovered a sizable carcinoma, for which summer - not the current one, but all the punishingly sunny ones past - can also be thanked.

The calendar says that the season doesn't officially begin for another two and a half weeks, but it functionally started on Memorial Day weekend. Not long after, the temperature in New York City hit 90 degrees on two afternoons in a row. If that's a mere prologue to summer, please speed me to the index. The sweat-stained pages in between promise to be unbearable.

Then again they usually are, all the more so because of the forced cheer. With fireworks and Ferris wheels, watermelon and water parks, we're constantly being exhorted to wring summer for all it's worth. No other season matches it for meteorological bullying.

"Are you ready for summer?" "Any special plans for the summer?" Unlike fall or spring, summer is always getting italics like that. I want to meet its publicist. Because I have questions. Why, year after year, do magazines yammer on and on about what the song of the summer will be, as if it's a coronation with actual consequence? Winter doesn't have a song. If it did, it sure wouldn't be sung by the preternaturally peppy likes of Katy Perry.

Does summer have to be so grammatically piggy, a vain noun with adjectival delusions? Summer vacation. Summer rental. Summer stage. Summer stock. Summer lover. Summer fling. Summer nights. Summer breeze.

And summer movies, God help us, which are a dopey and clan-

gorous breed apart. If they're not sequels, they're sequels to sequels or reboots of franchises I thought we'd booted to the curb long ago. In May alone we had our third "Hangover" and our third "Iron Man," and we were "Fast & Furious" for a sixth time. The "Man of Steel" is en route, with "The Lone Ranger" and "The Wolverine" fast on his airborne heels. Summer is rush hour for superheroes.

Speaking of which, did you know that traffic fatalities go up markedly in summer? The murder rate rises, too. It's a mean season, even leaving the sun to the side. People drown, are struck by lightning and wear seersucker. I realize that the last item doesn't really fit with the previous two, but it's another potent argument against summer, and I had to put it in somewhere.

Perhaps my summer sourness is a function of aging, by which I mean my own, not the earth's. Summer works best for the young. When you're on the far side of 45, you and almost everyone you know looks appreciably better in a parka than in a tank top, and the sentence "I'd like to see more of you" concerns frequency, not swimsuits and open-toed shoes.

Or maybe I'm reacting to climate change and to the chilling prospect, or rather the blistering one, that an intolerable season could become a quasi-permanent one.

In a sonnet that assessed summer, Shakespeare acknowledged, "Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines." That was more than 400 years ago, so I'll update the line in accordance with global warming and modern commerce: "Always doth I feel like a french fry under a McDonald's heat lamp."

That sentiment holds true already from late May through early September. What if the period grows longer, to five or six or even seven months of the year? I don't have that many sandals, and I can't imagine that many bug bites.

My dermatologist biopsied the Vesuvian one, only to determine that it would eventually shrink if I stopped scratching it, for which she gave me an ointment that has proved completely useless. For the carcinoma, I'll get surgery and a bevy of stitches. And then, I'm told, all will be well, except that one carcinoma often presages others, especially for those of us whose pale skin and delicate natures aren't suited to a brutal season of excessive heat and extravagant light. My body isn't just a buffet. It's a skin-cancer farm, and summer its fertilizer.

I asked her what I should do about that.

"Wear hats," she said. "Cover up. Stay out of the sun."

In winter, that would be a cinch. In summer, it's no breeze. □



The Way To Produce A Person



DAVID BROOKS
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Dylan Matthews had a fascinating piece about a young man named Jason Trigg in The Washington Post on Sunday. Trigg is a 25-year-old computer science graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who has hit upon what he thinks is the way he can do maximum good for the world. He goes to work each day at a high-frequency trading hedge fund. But, instead of spending his ample salary, he lives the life of a graduate student and gives a large chunk of his money away.

Trigg has seized upon the statistic that a \$2,500 donation can prevent one death from malaria, and he figures that, over the course of a lucrative Wall Street career, he can save many lives. He was motivated to think this way by the utilitarian philosopher, Peter Singer.

From the article, Trigg seems like an earnest, morally serious man, who, if he lives out his plan, could indeed help save many lives. But if you are thinking of following his example, I would really urge caution.

First, you might start down this course seeing finance as a convenient means to realize your deepest commitment: fighting malaria. But the brain is a malleable organ. Every time you do an activity, or have a thought, you are changing a piece of yourself into something slightly

different than it was before. Every hour you spend with others, you become more like the people around you.

Gradually, you become a different person. If there is a large gap between your daily conduct and your core commitment, you will become more like your daily activities and less attached to your original commitment. You will become more hedge fund, less malaria. There's nothing wrong with working at a hedge fund, but it's not the priority you started out with.

Second, I would be wary of inverting the natural order of affections. If you see the world on a strictly intellectual level, then a child in Pakistan or Zambia is just as valuable as your own child. But not many people actually think this way. Not many people value abstract life perceived as a statistic as much as the actual child being fed, hugged, nurtured and played with.

If you choose a profession that doesn't arouse your everyday passion for the sake of serving instead some abstract faraway good, you might end up as a person who values the far over the near.

You might become one of those people who loves humanity in general but not the particular humans immediately around. You might end up enlarging the faculties we use to perceive the far - rationality - and eclipsing the faculties we use to interact with those closest around - affection, the capacity for vulnerability and dependence. Instead of seeing yourself as one person deeply embedded in a particular community, you may end up coolly looking across humanity as a detached god.

Third, and most important, I would worry about turning yourself into a means rather than an end. If you go to Wall Street mostly to make money for charity, you may turn yourself into a

machine for the redistribution of wealth. You may turn yourself into a fiscal policy.

But a human life is not just a means to produce outcomes, it is an end in itself. When we evaluate our friends, we don't just measure the consequences of their lives. We measure who they intrinsically are. We don't merely want to know if they have done good.

We want to know if they are good.

That's why when most people pick a vocation, they don't only want one that will be externally useful. They want one that they will enjoy, and that will make them a better person.

They want to find that place, as the novelist Frederick Buechner put it, "where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

If you are smart, hardworking, careful and lucky you might even be able to find a job that is both productive and internally ennobling. Taking a job just to make money, on the other hand, is probably going to be corrosive, even if you use the money for charity rather than sports cars.

We live in a relentlessly commercial culture, so it's natural that many people would organize their lives in utilitarian and consequentialist terms. But it's possible to get carried away with this kind of thinking - to have logic but no wisdom, to become a specialist without spirit.

Making yourself is different than producing a product or an external outcome, requiring different logic and different means. I'd think you would be more likely to cultivate a deep soul if you put yourself in the middle of the things that engaged you most seriously. If your profoundest interest is dying children in Africa or Bangladesh, it's probably best to go to Africa or Bangladesh, not to Wall Street. □

Not just for tanning anymore:

Sunscreen can slow or even prevent aging skin!

GINA KOLATA

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People who diligently use sunscreen every day can slow or even prevent for a time the development of wrinkles and sagging skin, a new study found. Although dermatologists have long told people to use sunscreen to blunt the effects of aging, this is the first research to show an actual effect on the appearance of skin, researchers said. The study involved 900 white people ages 25 to 55 in Australia, where intense sun exposure is a fact of life. Most had fair skin, and nearly all burned in the sun. Most were using sunscreen at least some of the time, and two-thirds wore hats in the sun.

But researchers wanted to find out what would happen to skin if people tried to use a broad-spectrum sunscreen all the time over 4 1/2 years.

Half of the study participants were told to continue their usual practices, and the other half to slather on sunscreen daily.

The result, the researchers reported Monday in *The Annals of Internal Medicine*, is that those assigned to use sunscreen every day had noticeably more resilient and smoother skin than those assigned to continue their usual practices.

The study also included nearly 900 people who were randomly assigned to take beta carotene, a nutritional supplement, or a placebo to see if the supplement prevented skin aging. It did not.

The sunscreen element of the study impressed other researchers. Dr. David R. Bickers, a dermatology professor at Columbia University who was not involved in the research, said it "makes it clear that extensive, consistent use of sunscreen can alter a pattern of what would be an inevitable progression of photo-aging."

Until now, he said, most studies of sun-damaged skin were conducted with

mice, not people, and it was not clear whether the results would be the same. Dr. Barbara A. Gilchrest, a dermatology professor at the Boston University School of Medicine and the editor of *The Journal of Investigative Dermatology*, said she, too, found the study convincing.

Gilchrest, who was not associated with the study, noted that its subjects were not inveterate tanners but rather people who tried to protect their skin.

"They were not taking the worst sun offenders and taking them out of the

who would normally burn in 10 minutes would burn in 150 minutes with an SPF 15. Those assigned to use sunscreen even had their sunscreen bottles weighed to make sure they were using it. "Getting compliance over a sustained period of time is no mean feat," Bickers said.

"To me, it is remarkable that they were able to get the degree of compliance that they did."

The sunscreen study was paid for by the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia. No sunscreen makers

had previously shown that this method provides the same sort of information as a skin biopsy. With a biopsy, dermatologists look at elastin, the elastic tissue, which degrades with aging, contributing to wrinkles and sagging skin.

It is easy to see the effects of aging in a biopsy, said Dr. David J. Leffell, a professor of dermatology and surgery at Yale.

"Instead of nice pink fibers, you see a purple amorphous material," he said. "It is almost like looking at a photograph through a lens covered with Vaseline."

cone molds and graded them from 0 to 6.

A score of 0 means no photo-aging at all.

"It's like a baby's skin, resilient," Green said.

"There is a fine network of lines under a microscope." A person with a score of 6 has severely aged skin, with no elasticity and deep lines.

Every point on the scale represents coarser skin and increased wrinkling on the hand, the face or wherever the skin is being assessed. On the face, each point is also associated with a greater number of



Kali Gough, 17, left, and Allie Harris, 18, center, lay out at Siesta Public Beach in Sarasota, Fla. A study in 2013 has found that people who diligently use sunscreen every day can slow or even prevent for a time the development of wrinkles and sagging skin, researchers said.

(Chip Litherland/The New York Times)

sun," Gilchrest said. "Everyone had pretty darn good sun-protection habits to begin with."

No one had done such a study before because the very idea is daunting, dermatologists said. Hundreds of healthy people had to agree to follow their assigned regimens for years. The sunscreen used by those assigned to daily applications had a sun protection factor, or SPF, of 15, which filters 92 percent of the sun's rays. Someone

contributed. Researchers studied only white people in Nambour, about 650 miles north of Sydney. Participants agreed to let researchers make silicone casts of their skin at the start and the end of the study to assess how their skin had aged. The study's principal investigator, Adele C. Green, a senior scientist at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, and her colleagues there and at the University of Queensland

The silicone casts allowed experts to look at corresponding changes on the skin's surface.

In making a mold, a subject first stretched the skin on the top of a hand by grasping a cardboard tube and making a fist. Then a researcher covered the top of the hand with silicone and peeled it off, forming the mold.

Assessors, who did not know whether the subjects were using sunscreen, examined the lines in the sili-

visible small blood vessels. At the start of the study, the median score in both groups of subjects was 4, which means they had moderate photo-aging. At the end, those assigned to daily sunscreen use still had a median score of 4, but those in the control group had a median of 5. The study does not answer the question of whether people older than 55 would also have more youthful skin if they used sunscreen, Green cautioned. □